3 1761 11895340 5

Government
Publications

Government
Publications


Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2024 with funding from
University of Toronto

https://archive.org/details/31761118953405

Publications
R.8
734 J

Ontario

No. 1

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

LIBRARY
MAY 4 1981
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

First Session, 32nd Parliament
Tuesday, April 21, 1981

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back.

An alphabetical list of members of the Legislature of Ontario, together with lists of members of the executive council and the parliamentary assistants, also appears at the back as an appendix.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
SEP 3 1981

Hansard subscription price is $15.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Central Purchasing Service, Print Procurement Section, Ministry of Government Services, 8th Floor, Ferguson Block, Parliament Buildings, Toronto M7A 1N3. Phone (416) 965-2238.

Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

The First Session of the Thirty-Second Parliament of the province of Ontario opened at 3 p.m. for the dispatch of business pursuant to a proclamation of the Honourable J. B. Aird, Lieutenant Governor of the province.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 1981

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, having entered the chamber, took his seat upon the throne.

Hon. Mr. Aird: Pray be seated.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I am commanded by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor to state that he does not see fit to declare the causes of the summoning of the present Legislature of this province until a Speaker of this House shall have been chosen according to law; but today, at a subsequent hour, His Honour will declare the causes of the calling of this Legislature.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to retire from the chamber.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

Clerk of the House: Members of the Legislative Assembly, it is my duty to call upon you to elect one of your number to preside over your deliberations as Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, that the member for the electoral district of Peterborough (Mr. Turner) be the Speaker of this House.

Clerk of the House: Are there any further nominations? I declare the nominations closed.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Acting Speaker, in accordance with the rules of the House I wish to make a few comments on the motion now before the House for the nomination of the member for Peterborough as the Speaker.

I would like to draw to the attention of all members of the House the resolution from the member for York South (Mr. MacDonald) which was adopted by this Legislature on April 3, 1980, and which was unanimously endorsed by the members of the Legislature in the course of the private members' hour of that day. It said, and I will read a portion of it: "In order to establish in practice, as well as in principle, the independence of the Legislature, the nomination of the Speaker should be made by the Premier only after consultation with the leaders of the opposition parties."

Not only was that resolution unanimously endorsed by the Legislature, but I think it is significant that Russell Rowe, a former Speaker of this Legislature, in joining in that debate, said quite clearly that he agreed with the procedure proposed for the election of the Speaker. In fact, he said that is basically the way it is done now.

To my regret, the fact is that that has not been the procedure carried out on this occasion. I am afraid that in failing to carry out the procedure which had been agreed to by resolution of this House, the government has jeopardized the independence of the Speaker. That independence, of course, is the greatest asset of the Speaker in this Legislature and any legislature in a parliamentary system.

In 1973, in the first report of the Camp commission, it was made very clear, and the government accepted the principles of the Camp commission, that a prime goal should be to establish the independence of the Legislature's first officer, the Speaker. The commission said its intent was to have independence for the Speaker similar to what occurs in the federal Parliament, "emphasizing the primacy of their functions as officials and servants of the assembly, without any intimation of the slightest kind that they are controlled or even influenced by the ministry. Their duty is to the assembly and to each of its members as seen within the good of the whole."

Over the course of the last six or seven years, we have made substantial progress in establishing the speakership as an independent office, in ensuring that the Legislature carries out its own administration rather than doing it at the beck and call of the government of the day. We have made substantial progress in that direction, and I regret that the consultation which was called for by this Legislature and which had been established as a convention in this House for at least the past 20 years did not occur in this case.

3:10 p.m.

I did have a call from the Premier at noon today, telling me, as I had read in the press, that he would be nominating the member for Peterborough for the position. I also read in the press of the warnings the Premier had been giving to his own caucus and cabinet not to be arrogant and complacent now a majority government is in place. I fear the action of not having any kind of consultation worthy of the name indicates the Premier failed to take heed of the warnings he was giving to members of his cabinet and caucus.

We intend to ask the Premier, in fact I will ask the Premier to give a commitment now, whether the standing committee on procedural affairs could and will look at implementing the intent of the resolution, not only with respect to the Speaker but also with respect to the other officers of the assembly and the Ombudsman, to ensure that a process of consultation takes place and to reinforce their independence of the governing party or of any other party. I would ask the Premier if he would agree, in this House, to that proposal.

We intend, but with regret, to oppose the resolution that is being put forward by the Premier now with the support of the Leader of the Opposition. We will oppose it, not because of the individual who is being chosen but because of our deep concern over the procedure that has not been followed in this case and that we believe should be followed in future to ensure that, as with any other democratic parliament, in this parliament the office of the Speaker is seen as being independent, the Speaker is seen as being the defender of the rights of all the members of the Legislature and that position is shored up in every way possible.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I hope to spare our very distinguished visitors to the assembly on the first day some internal discussion. It is true, as the leader of the New Democratic Party pointed out that, for another reason, I was not here as early as usual this morning and did not communicate with the leaders of the other two parties. As I explained to them, an explanation which was very graciously accepted by the Leader of the Opposition, first, I do not control what the press writes and, second, I reminded the member for Ottawa Centre that while there may have been a resolution and he may have certain concepts in his own mind, as Premier I have been involved with the nomination, I guess, of three or four Speakers.

The tradition in this House has been, and I think it is true of most parliamentary democracies, that the nomination of the Speaker is made by the government. Of course, the leader of the New Democratic Party has the right to vote against that nomination. I am intrigued to hear him suggest that his party will do so, and far be it from me to be partisan on this occasion, but perhaps I would say to the distinguished member that it is that kind of activity that has led to his party's present situation.

Mr. Stokes: I would like to be given the opportunity to say to my honourable colleagues in this House that I think it is most unfortunate this matter has been raised in the way it has by the member for Ottawa Centre. I think it is absolutely essential that in choosing the person who will lead us and set the tone during this forthcoming parliament, he be given the total support and the total confidence of each and every member of this House.

I would hope, and I say this very sincerely to all my colleagues, if there is any difference of opinion with regard to the process or the procedure to be followed in the way in which someone is elected to this high office, I do not think an opening day like this is the time or the opportunity to raise it.

We have various options available to us to pursue that cause. I think in this instance the nomination that has been placed before us for the election of the member for Peterborough is one that deserves and merits the support of each and every member of this House. I think it would be intolerable if it was less than unanimous.

I have every confidence that the honourable member who has been proposed to this high office will carry it out with integrity and with impartiality. I would hope the nomination that has been placed before you would be completely unanimous and I intend to support it.

Mr. Smith: I might, Mr. Acting Speaker, simply add a short word to say that I greatly appreciated the fact that the Premier did telephone my office and spoke with me. He explained that while it was a trifle late in the day, he was getting in touch with me and I accepted his explanations totally. I understand it fully and certainly want to say that we are prepared not only to agree to seconding the nomination, but of course to voting and to working as an opposition as faithfully as possible under the guidance of the new Speaker, once he is elected.

Clerk of the House: Are there any further nominations? There being only one nomina-

tion, I declare the nominations closed and the Honourable John Melville Turner to be Speaker of this House.

3:20 p.m.

Mr. Speaker entered the chamber and took the chair.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Premier, Mr. Smith, Mr. Cassidy, honourable members, first of all I want to thank the Premier and Mr. Smith for moving and seconding my nomination. It is indeed a great honour you have given me today, and one to which I will find it particularly difficult to respond.

Each of you knows the thrill and elation that comes on election night; I don't think we need remind each other of that. Perhaps you can understand the feeling I have after being elected by my 124 colleagues, each of whom is an election winner. My family and I look forward to working with all the members, to meeting their families and serving the people of Ontario to the best of our ability.

I am new to this office. The member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) is a hard act to follow. He has set an example of impartiality that will indeed be a bright beacon for me to follow. The protection of the rights and privileges of all members on both my left and my right will be my constant duty.

Mr. Premier, if I may, at the risk of being called somewhat partisan, I would like to extend my particular thanks to the Honourable Dennis Timbrell, the Minister of Health, and the staff of the Ministry of Health for the co-operation and help they have given me in the last three years. It is very much appreciated.

I thank you all sincerely for entrusting to me the duties of the Speaker. I will do my very best to discharge them fairly and impartially. Thank you very much.

This House will now adjourn during pleasure.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor re-entered the chamber and took his seat upon the throne.

Hon. Mr. Aird: Pray be seated.

Mr. Speaker: May it please Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly have elected me as their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me. If, in the performance of those duties, I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me and not to the assembly whose servant I am and who, through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their Queen and country, hereby claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to your person at all seasonable times and that their proceedings may receive from you the most favourable consideration.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded by the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor to declare to you that he freely confides in the duty and attachment of the assembly to Her Majesty's person and government, and, not doubting that the proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temperance and prudence, he grants and upon all occasions will recognize and allow the constitutional privileges. I am commanded also to assure you that the assembly shall have ready access to His Honour upon all suitable occasions and that its proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Hon. Mr. Aird: Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislative Assembly, I extend greetings to you all on behalf of our Sovereign on this the opening of the First Session of the Thirty-Second Parliament of Ontario. I welcome to this parliament those honourable members who will be serving their fellow citizens in this capacity for the first time as well as those who have been returned to office. May I express the wish that your hopes and objectives and those of your constituents will be fulfilled through the opportunities for service afforded you as individual members and together as the Legislature of this great and historic province.

Mon gouvernement prend acte de la responsabilité que lui a confiée la population de l'Ontario et il accepte cette responsabilité. Il s'engage, dans l'administration de ses affaires, à servir loyalement les intérêts de la province et du pays tout entier.

We wish to record the pleasure we share, along with all Canadians, in the upcoming marriage of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. As well, Ontario will be honoured with visits by Her Majesty the Queen Mother and by Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret later this summer. These events afford an opportunity for an expression of the pride we feel in the heritage that has been ours as a constitutional monarchy.

In the business of our nation, the tensions and stresses of the sustained constitutional debate continue to dominate Canadian public affairs. The government and people of this province are

resolute in their desire for patriation of the Canadian constitution while preserving our existing constitutional monarchy in both form and substance. We seek to protect human and democratic rights and to assure freedom of movement for all Canadians in the final step to constitutional maturity for this nation.

While my government regrets the lack of accord between several of our sister provinces and the central government, we continue to hold a positive perspective on the outcome. For its part, this province will continue to strive for patriation of the Canadian constitution with a fair amending formula and with an entrenched charter of rights. This has been our position since the federal-provincial conference on the constitution in February 1969.

But the constitution, despite its great importance, must not be allowed to distort the public agenda of Canada. Inflation, economic growth, federal-provincial fiscal and tax-sharing arrangements, social policy and stability, and energy pricing and supply, all constitute matters that must be urgently addressed so that our nation does not falter for want of the critical decisions necessary to sustain our economic prosperity and security.

The problem of inflation, in particular, must be faced in a comprehensive way on a national front and without delay. Major opportunities for action lie in the key federal areas of monetary and fiscal policy planning. The question of energy pricing and supply remains unresolved and, in the absence of a fair distribution of resource benefits among all provinces, unnecessary damage is caused to the economy of the nation as a whole. Decisive and reasonable actions are essential if this problem is to be overcome. My government will continue to press for cohesive national leadership in these crucial areas and repeats the call for a conference of first ministers at an early date as the forum for such action.

Existing federal-provincial fiscal arrangements, which are due to expire at the end of this fiscal year, are being reviewed between Ottawa and the provinces. While Ontario welcomes the opportunity to participate in these important discussions, we will oppose any attempts to reduce a fair federal contribution to major programs in health, education and social services. In the particular interests of the province of Ontario, economic leadership and policies aimed at promoting the wellbeing of our people are vital elements of the framework of freedom and opportunity that must serve us in the years ahead.

3:30 p.m.

We are a strong and vigorous province. Our continuing vitality, despite the pressures of the times, owes no little credit to the foresight and planning of past years which have provided the firm economic and social foundation of the Ontario of today. Reinforcing this foundation to ensure future growth and development is crucial to the strength of the Ontario of tomorrow.

The new industrial leadership and development program, an explicit program for economic expansion and growth, will be the basic industrial development blueprint of this government. This five-year program, as earlier announced, comprises a reordering of priorities and the commitment of a $1.5 billion development plan for specific projects. This program will be directed by a board of ministers whose responsibilities are key to the creation of the wealth on which a secure future will depend.

The BILD program, as it is called, is a coherent and prudent plan for Ontario, and one that is in accordance with the objectives and scope of the government's ongoing fiscal strategy. It is the aim of the government, during this session, to make substantial progress along this course.

A major instrument in the program will be the newly established office of procurement policy which will play a role in mobilizing public sector purchasing power to foster Canadian manufacturing and technology.

Greater use of electricity, increased commitments for skills training and manpower retraining, concentrated development of high technology industry, specific programs for resource development, programs for community economic development and expansion of our transportation systems will be critical components of an industrial expansion plan for all regions and economic sectors in Ontario.

Legislation will be presented to amend the Power Corporation Act to enable Ontario Hydro to sell industrial steam to the Ontario Energy Corporation, as a major step forward in the establishment of the Bruce Energy Centre. Construction of a steam pipeline will begin this year.

Ontario's wide-ranging energy conservation and oil substitution programs will be reinforced by a new residential electrical services program. Legislation will be enacted to enable Ontario Hydro and the municipal electric utilities to

carry out home energy audits and to provide home owner loans for energy conservation, electric wiring upgrading and conversion to electric heating.

Further initiatives will be taken by the Ministry of Energy in such areas as hydrogen, fusion, solar energy, alternative transportation fuels and small hydraulic development.

Ontario has a unique opportunity to use its world leadership in electrical generation technology to produce hydrogen. We stand to gain enormous long-term benefits from early entry into the hydrogen age. Approaches have been made to the federal government suggesting a joint funding program. In the meantime, the province will undertake major initiatives to support existing centres of recognized leadership in this field and will proceed with its previously announced commitment to establish an institute for hydrogen systems.

High priority is placed on industrial and technological development from the viewpoint of the potential for job creation, as well as for the advancement of industry itself.

The deployment of our human resources is a vital and integral part of the BILD program. Without question, government has a role to play to assist in opening the door to employment opportunities. But it is the role of private enterprise to provide the wide range of choices which our society requires. At the same time, our society must be able to rely on the resourcefulness and will of its members.

It is a right in a democratic society that we are free to fulfil our potential as individuals in the vocation of our choosing. Still, in practical terms, there is a continuing need for a better balance between work opportunities and skills, particularly in the growing high technology field.

The government will expand the training in business and industry initiatives of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and provide a major funding allocation for technical and technological equipment for the province's colleges of applied arts and technology. A community counselling program will be developed to tap the resources of our young people and guide them towards worthwhile and productive jobs. Efforts are being made to co-ordinate and share the costs of some of these initiatives with the new federal labour adjustment program.

A new international intern program will aim to add more international marketing specialists to the Ontario business community over the next two years. In this proposed joint venture with Ontario business companies, the Ministry of Industry and Tourism will share the salary costs of posting marketing and sales representatives for training and experience in important foreign markets.

In step with these training initiatives, a biotechnology company, a joint venture already announced, will be the base of a methodical and solid advance towards high-level industrial growth, job creation and world-scale competitive leadership in vital areas of economic activity.

This province will proceed to develop specific research innovation centres in auto parts technology, computer-assisted manufacturing and robotics, and micro-electronics. A special multimillion-dollar fund to finance new high technology firms will be established through the Ontario Development Corporations.

You will be asked to enact legislation to establish the IDEA Corporation. The purpose of this agency will be to promote and finance the development of new technologies and facilitate their industrial application. The corporation will also have a key role to play in integrating and linking the research and development resources of government, the university community and industry.

In the area of resource development, the province will proceed with the BILD forest management program, construction of forest seedling cultivation centres in northern Ontario, and a major gold sampling and custom milling program. Discussions will be pursued with private mining and forestry companies and with machinery producers for a joint resource machinery initiative in the Sudbury area.

Existing provincial farm support programs will be supplemented by specific measures to assist the food processing and tender fruit growing industries. A major objective is to expand and improve processing capability for crops produced in Ontario.

A full-scale fruit and vegetable storage program will be introduced to upgrade and expand present storage, grading and packing capacity. The target over the next five years is to reduce imports by at least one third, and substantially increase farm incomes.

Ontario is determined to ensure that its agricultural sector remains among the most modern in the world. This will require careful and constant attention to forces outside the industry, among which the current impact of high interest rates is a matter of great concern.

The Ontario government's commitment to public transportation is a matter of record. In

particular, over the last decade, provincial policies and financing have been the mainspring of local public transit systems in urban centres throughout the province, and of a successful and growing transportation technology industry.

Legislation will be amended to allow for additional subsidies for the purchase of electrified trolley bus equipment by local municipalities. A long-term schedule of radial road improvements will be undertaken to accommodate the movement of people and of increasingly heavy commercial traffic in the Toronto-Niagara corridor. The government will extend the municipal airport program of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications to all of Ontario.

My government has every confidence that the development of an intermediate capacity transit system by the Urban Transportation Development Corporation is but the beginning of an auspicious future for the industry. Additional investments in UTDC will allow for production facilities in Ontario. A feasibility study for an ICT system for the city of Hamilton is expected to be ready by this fall, and negotiations will begin with Metropolitan Toronto for an ICTS line in this area. Design work for electrification of the GO commuter rail system from Oakville to Pickering is under way.

3:40 p.m.

The final report of the task force on provincial rail policy, which will be published shortly, will provide further direction for the province's expanded role in rail transportation. As well, the province is committed to significant upgrading of our harbours and marine transportation capability. It is anticipated that the report of the Great Lakes Seaway Task Force will also identify further areas for provincial involvement.

Economic growth and technological progress and innovation are not sufficient goals in and of themselves. They are, more important, instruments for financing social progress and improving the quality of life and public safety and security that are so fundamental to Ontario society.

Ontario is well served by the wide range and strength of the established institutions in our society. The task before us—an enviable one compared with many jurisdictions—is to ensure with continued foresight and planning that we are able to adapt to the demands of the future and so continue to enhance and enrich life in the province.

Efforts towards improved high standards of environmental protection will be intensified. We stand to lose much if we do not pursue and make use of the advantages of modern science and technology. With these concerns in mind, the government proposes to introduce legislation charging the Ontario Waste Management Corporation with the responsibility for establishing a world class facility for the treatment and safe disposal of liquid industrial waste.

Potential health hazards from the manufacture, use and disposal of chemical products will be the primary interest of the new Ontario Centre for Toxicology. A major government role is envisaged in this venture which will result from joint efforts of the universities of Toronto and Guelph. The centre will be a co-operative undertaking with the private sector and the university community and will serve as a broad-based training, research and assessment institution.

The government will continue an aggressive campaign to counter the threat posed by acid rain and to have controls applied against sources contributing to the problem, both in Ontario and from beyond the province's borders.

My government is committed to providing continued strong support for health care, education, day care, and those in need, as well as for the vast number of services that are an integral part of social policy development and the mainstay of our social wellbeing. The provincial pattern has been to decentralize much of the operational responsibility for these services to achieve greater flexibility in their delivery. The government reaffirms this policy as a means of recognizing and, to the greatest possible extent, meeting the individual needs of all members of the community.

Continuing emphasis will be placed on community living for elderly and disabled persons, enabling them to live in their own homes. At the same time, accommodation needs and care of others who are unable to be relatively independent must be assured. To this end, a five-year provincial program will be started this spring to increase the capacity and improve the standard of homes for the aged throughout the province. This will be carried out in co-operation with municipalities and charitable organizations.

Pensions have become an increasingly important issue for larger numbers of our people. The recently released report of the royal commission on pensions is a most extensive study of this matter. In order that its recommendations may be widely understood and carefully reviewed, this House will be asked to appoint a select committee to examine the report.

The importance of the role of the family in our society cannot be too strongly emphasized. This has been a consistent view of the government, and one which it upholds in a range of accepted provincial policies and programs. The government's activities, therefore, will continue to reflect and respond to the nature of our people and to their desire that family life and other traditional values remain an influence and force in the Ontario way of life.

There are a multitude of recreational and cultural activities that do so much for the enjoyment of leisure time in this province. Among the particular events that deserve special attention in the coming year will be the 1981 Canada Games scheduled to be held in Thunder Bay in August. This will be the first time the Canada Games will be staged in Ontario.

Ontario has endorsed the United Nations designation of 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons. Budgetary increases have been provided for existing provincially funded services for the disabled, including transportation programs and the provision of physical amenities in public buildings and community facilities. In addition, the province has earmarked a special $12 million fund to initiate new programs and a $5.5 million Wintario capital grant allocation to make cultural and recreational facilities more accessible to disabled people. A special public awareness program will be launched later this spring.

With these and other initiatives, there is every indication that the attention being paid to this special event will produce many programs of lasting benefit, both within government and throughout the community at large.

The government affirms a commitment to meet the needs of developmentally handicapped children. Through a new program to encourage parental involvement and responsibility, families will participate in working out programs for their own children. Special needs agreements with parents will provide the vehicle for this initiative. It will also make increased funding available for the additional special services often required by these children.

The policies and programs of the Ministry of Health will continue to emphasize preventive care and public health. You will be asked to consider a new Health Protection Act to provide for a core package of public health services that will be common to all health units across Ontario.

A mental health co-ordinator will be appointed to formulate new policies and plans relating to the development and delivery of Ontario's mental health services.

The extension of telemedicine links between small and large hospitals, and of regional perinatal services throughout the province will ensure that the most up to date methods of care are readily available to the people of Ontario.

Le gouvernement adoptera des politiques et des programmes spéciaux visant à améliorer la prestation de ses services en français, à faire connaître ces services et à encourager la population francophone à les utiliser. C'est le ministère des affaires intergouvernementales qui coordonnera ces efforts, et des fonds spéciaux seront affectés pour faciliter la création de nouveaux services en français, au sein du gouvernement et dans toute la collectivité franco-Ontarienne.

New government policies on native affairs include a career development plan for native people in northern Ontario to provide opportunities for training and permanent employment in the private sector, as well as in the field operations of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Last November, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Elgie) tabled a comprehensive report on the province's workmen's compensation laws. The recommendations have received wide public approval. The government will introduce legislation, early in the session, reflecting the major proposals in the report relating to benefit calculations and levels, and the structure and adjudication procedures of the Workmen's Compensation Board.

Major revisions to the Ontario Human Rights Code will be introduced for enactment. Among the measures are protections for the handicapped and for persons subject to harassment in a variety of situations. Existing protections against discrimination on grounds of marital status and age will be expanded.

The Children's Law Reform Act amendments, concerning child custody and access proceedings, which were given second reading at the last session, will proceed to enactment. Complementary legislation will be presented to implement the Hague Convention regarding child kidnapping. As well, amendments will be made to the Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act to provide more effective enforcement of orders throughout Canada, as recommended by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada.

A special bill will be introduced providing for

civilian review and appeal procedures with respect to investigation of complaints against the police in Metro Toronto.

My government will present a number of measures to improve the administration of its affairs. Legislation will be presented to integrate more closely the policies and programs of the Ministry of Housing with those operations of the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs that relate to municipal matters. This consolidation will also pave the way for introduction of a revised Planning Act. This important legislation, the product of an extensive consultation process, has already had thorough public review as a subject of a white paper.

3:50 p.m.

Proposals for the implementation of a policy on freedom of information and individual privacy will also be provided for consideration by this assembly and by the general public. These will be in the form of a draft freedom of information bill to be included in a government discussion paper. A response will be made to the Krever commission report on the confidentiality of health information.

It is the government's wish that the overall legislative program for the session proceed efficiently and effectively, and that ample consideration be afforded items of due significance. In addition to those items already mentioned in this address, other important measures will include amendments to the Education Act and the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

Three major bills which did not proceed to enactment last year will be reintroduced; namely, a revised Business Corporations Act, the Municipal Boundaries Negotiations Act and the Dangerous Goods Transportation Act. A Toronto Islands act will pass into law certain recommendations of the Swadron report received earlier this year. Essential changes will be brought forward with regard to the Election Act and the Election Finances Reform Act.

Honourable members, this assembly begins an important and demanding session. I pray that in the discharge of your duties in the months ahead, you remain mindful of the effect of your decisions on the future course of Ontario and Canada. The difficulties we face at home, while legitimate causes for concern, need not and must not obscure the fundamental strength of our economy, the tremendous potential of our human and natural resources and the exciting and overwhelming hope for our future.

Through the leadership and efforts of my ministers, and through the work of this Legislature, we must seek to build new national understanding. Through the will and spirit of the people of Ontario, we must help to achieve the growth and advancement that will sustain our province and our nation. This is the challenge we collectively face.

May Divine Providence attend your deliberations.

In our Sovereign's name, I thank you.

God bless the Queen and Canada.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor was then pleased to retire from the chamber.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House that to prevent mistakes I have obtained a copy of His Honour's speech, which I will now read. [Reading dispensed with.]

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House that Mr. Smith, the member for Hamilton West, is recognized as leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

DEVOLUTION OF ESTATES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved first reading of Bill 1, An Act to amend the Devolution of Estates Act.

Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor to this House be taken into consideration on Thursday next.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that commencing tomorrow and for the present session the House will not meet in the chamber on Wednesday unless otherwise ordered.

Motion agreed to.

ROLL OF THE MEMBERS ELECTED

Mr. Speaker: The Clerk has received from the chief election officer and laid upon the table the roll of the members elected at the general election of 1981.

The House adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

APPENDIX*

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

(125 members)

First Session of the 32nd Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. John B. Aird, OC, QC

Speaker: Hon. John M. Turner **Clerk of the House: Roderick Lewis, QC**

Member	Constituency	Party
Andrees, P.	Lincoln	PC
Ashe, Hon. G.	Durham West	PC
Baetz, Hon. R. C.	Ottawa West	PC
Barlow, W. W.	Cambridge	PC
Bennett, Hon. C. F.	Ottawa South	PC
Bernier, Hon. L.	Kenora	PC
Birch, Hon. M.	Scarborough East	PC
Boudria, D.	Prescott-Russell	L
Bradley, J. J.	St. Catharines	L
Brandt, A. S.	Sarnia	PC
Breaugh, M. J.	Oshawa	NDP
Breithaupt, J. R.	Kitchener	L
Bryden, M. H.	Beaches-Woodbine	NDP
Cassidy, M.	Ottawa Centre	NDP
Charlton, B. A.	Hamilton Mountain	NDP
Conway, S. G.	Renfrew North	L
Cooke, D.	Windsor-Riverside	NDP
Copps, S. M.	Hamilton Centre	L
Cousens, D.	York Centre	PC
Cunningham, E. G.	Wentworth North	L
Cureatz, S.	Durham East	PC
Davis, Hon. W. G.	Brampton	PC
Dean, G. H.	Wentworth	PC
Di Santo, O.	Downsview	NDP
Drea, Hon. F.	Scarborough Centre	PC
Eakins, J. F.	Victoria-Haliburton	L
Eaton, R. G.	Middlesex	PC
Edighoffer, H. A.	Perth	L
Elgie, Hon. R. G.	Waterloo North	L
Elston, M. J.	Huron-Bruce	L
Epp, H. A.	Waterloo North	L
Eves, E. L.	Parry Sound	PC
Fish, S. A.	St. George	PC
Foulds, J. F.	Port Arthur	NDP
Gillies, P. A.	Brantford	PC
Gordon, J. K.	Sudbury	PC
Grande, A.	Oakwood	NDP
Gregory, Hon. M. E. C.	Mississauga East	PC
Grossman, Hon. L.	St. Andrew-St. Patrick	PC

*The lists in this appendix, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard on the first Friday of each month and in the first and last issues of each session.

Member	Constituency	Party
Haggerty, R.	Erie	L
Harris, M. D.	Nipissing	PC
Havrot, E. M.	Timiskaming	PC
Henderson, Hon. L. C.	Lambton	PC
Hennessy, M.	Fort William	PC
Hodgson, W.	York North	PC
Johnson, J. M.	Wellington-Dufferin-Peel	PC
Johnston, R. F.	Scarborough West	NDP
Jones, T.	Mississauga North	PC
Kells, M. C.	Humber	PC
Kennedy, R. D.	Mississauga South	PC
Kerr, G. A.	Burlington South	PC
Kerrio, V.	Niagara Falls	L
Kolyn, A.	Lakeshore	PC
Lane, J. G.	Algoma-Manitoulin	PC
Laughren, F.	Nickel Belt	NDP
Leluk, Hon. N. G.	York West	PC
Lupusella, A.	Dovercourt	NDP
MacDonald, D. C.	York South	NDP
Mackenzie, R. W.	Hamilton East	NDP
MacQuarrie, R. W.	Carleton East	PC
Mancini, R.	Essex South	L
Martel, E. W.	Sudbury East	NDP
McCaffrey, Hon. B.	Armourdale	PC
McCague, Hon. G. R.	Dufferin-Simcoe	PC
McClellan, R. A.	Bellwoods	NDP
McEwen, J. E.	Frontenac-Addington	L
McGuigan, J.	Kent-Elgin	L
McKessock, R.	Grey	L
McLean, A. K.	Simcoe East	PC
McMurtry, Hon. R.	Eglinton	PC
McNeil, R. K.	Elgin	PC
Miller, Hon. F. S.	Muskoka	PC
Miller, G. I.	Haldimand-Norfolk	L
Mitchell, R. C.	Carleton	PC
Newman, B.	Windsor-Walkerville	L
Nixon, R. F.	Brant-Oxford-Norfolk	L
Norton, Hon. K. C.	Kingston and the Islands	PC
O'Neil, H. P.	Quinte	L
Peterson, D. R.	London Centre	L
Philip, E. T.	Etobicoke	NDP
Piche, R. L.	Cochrane North	PC
Pollock, J.	Hastings-Peterborough	PC
Pope, Hon. A. W.	Cochrane South	PC
Ramsay, Hon. R. H.	Sault Ste. Marie	PC
Reed, J. A.	Halton-Burlington	L
Reid, T. P.	Rainy River	L. LAB.
Renwick, J. A.	Riverdale	NDP
Riddell, J.	Huron-Middlesex	L

Member	Constituency	Party
Robinson, A. M.	Scarborough-Ellesmere	PC
Rotenberg, D.	Wilson Heights	PC
Roy, A. J.	Ottawa East	L
Runciman, R. W.	Leeds	PC
Ruprecht, T.	Parkdale	L
Ruston, R. F.	Essex North	L
Samis, G. R.	Cornwall	NDP
Sargent, E. C.	Grey-Bruce	L
Scrivener, M.	St. David	PC
Sheppard, H. N.	Northumberland	PC
Shymko, Y.	High Park-Swansea	PC
Smith, S. L.	Hamilton West	L
Snow, Hon. J. W.	Oakville	PC
Spensieri, M. A.	Yorkview	L
Stephenson, Hon. B. M.	York Mills	PC
Sterling, Hon. N. W.	Carleton-Grenville	PC
Stevenson, K. R.	Durham-York	PC
Stokes, J. E.	Lake Nipigon	NDP
Swart, M. L.	Welland-Thorold	NDP
Sweeney, J.	Kitchener-Wilmot	L
Taylor, G. W.	Simcoe Centre	PC
Taylor, J. A.	Prince Edward-Lennox	PC
Timbrell, Hon. D. R.	Don Mills	PC
Treleaven, R. L.	Oxford	PC
Turner, Hon. J. M.	Peterborough	PC
Van Horne, R. G.	London North	L
Villeneuve, O. F.	Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry	PC
Walker, Hon. G. W.	London South	PC
Watson, A. N.	Chatham-Kent	PC
Welch, Hon. R. S.	Brock	PC
Wells, Hon. T. L.	Scarborough North	PC
Wildman, B.	Algoma	NDP
Williams, J.	Oriole	PC
Wiseman, Hon. D. J.	Lanark	PC
Worton, H.	Wellington South	L
Wrye, W. M.	Windsor-Sandwich	L
Yakabuski, P. J.	Renfrew South	PC

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Hon. W. G. Davis	Premier and President of the Council
Hon. R. S. Welch	Minister of Energy and Deputy Premier
Hon. T. L. Wells	Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
Hon. L. Bernier	Minister of Northern Affairs
Hon. J. W. Snow	Minister of Transportation and Communications
Hon. M. Birch	Provincial Secretary for Social Development
Hon. C. F. Bennett	Minister of Housing
Hon. F. S. Miller	Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics
Hon. D. R. Timbrell	Minister of Health
Hon. B. M. Stephenson	Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities
Hon. R. McMurtry	Attorney General and Solicitor General
Hon. L. C. Henderson	Minister of Agriculture and Food
Hon. K. C. Norton	Minister of the Environment
Hon. F. Drea	Minister of Community and Social Services
Hon. L. Grossman	Minister of Industry and Tourism
Hon. G. McCague	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet and Chairman of Cabinet
Hon. R. C. Baetz	Minister of Culture and Recreation
Hon. D. J. Wiseman	Minister of Government Services
Hon. R. G. Elgie	Minister of Labour
Hon. G. W. Walker	Provincial Secretary for Justice and Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations
Hon. M. E. C. Gregory	Minister without Portfolio
Hon. A. W. Pope	Minister of Natural Resources
Hon. N. G. Leluk	Minister of Correctional Services
Hon. G. L. Ashe	Minister of Revenue
Hon. R. H. Ramsay	Provincial Secretary for Resources Development
Hon. B. R. McCaffrey	Minister without Portfolio
Hon. N. W. Sterling	Minister without Portfolio

PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANTS

Eaton, R. G. (Middlesex)	Assistant to the Minister of Transportation and Communications
Hodgson, W. (York North)	Assistant to the Minister of Housing
Jones, T. (Mississauga North)	Assistant to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development
Kennedy, R. D. (Mississauga South)	Assistant to the Minister of Education
Lane, J. G. (Algoma-Manitoulin)	Assistant to the Minister of Northern Affairs
McNeil, R. K. (Elgin)	Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Food
Rotenberg, D. (Wilson Heights)	Assistant to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
Watson, A. N. (Chatham-Kent)	Assistant to the Minister of Community and Social Services
Yakabuski, R. J. (Renfrew South)	Assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources

CONTENTS

Tuesday, April 21, 1981

Election of Mr. Turner as Speaker of the House, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Davis, Mr. Stokes, Mr. Smith 3

Speech from the Throne, the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor 5

Recognition of Mr. Smith as Leader of the Opposition 10

Devolution of Estates Amendment Act, Mr. McMurtry, first reading 10

Business of the House, Mr. Wells 10

Tabling of roll of the members elected in the general election 10

Appendix, alphabetical list of members of the Legislature of Ontario, the executive council and the parliamentary assistants 11

Government Publications

Ontario

No. 2

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



First Session, Thirty Second Parliament
Thursday, April 23, 1981

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

Hansard subscription price is $15.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Central Purchasing Service, Print Procurement Section, Ministry of Government Services, 8th Floor, Ferguson Block, Parliament Buildings, Toronto M7A 1N3. Phone (416) 965-2238.

Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.

10

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1981

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

SPEAKER'S ENTRANCE

Mr. Speaker: As the members may have noticed, I entered the chamber today from the side rather than by way of the main entrance. It is my understanding that the way the Speaker enters this chamber is his prerogative, and I prefer what was until recently the tradition of this House, that is, to enter from the side.

I realize that a recommendation came from the procedural affairs committee during the last parliament, but I regard that as a recommendation at the request of the Speaker for the opinion of a committee of that parliament to that parliament, and I personally prefer our own tradition. However, if any members wish to send me a note regarding this matter, I will be pleased to consider their opinions. Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER SPEAKER

Applause.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am not used to that sort of reception, but once it started, I looked across the House to see what degree of unanimity one might achieve.

I fully understand the reluctance of the members opposite to join in. I am not offended, neither do I take it in any way in a personal sense.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would only say to the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) not to provoke me today or I will recall the events of March 19. I have no intention of doing so today.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would think the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid) should be even more nervous than the member for Niagara Falls.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in my place this afternoon to pay tribute to the former Speaker of this House, the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes). In my view the former Speaker performed an invaluable service as Speaker of this assembly and as an arbitrator of the proceedings and rules that govern our debates in this House. He did so with a sense of fairness, of balance and of determination which served the interests of the people of this province as well as members of this assembly.

This assembly represents, for better or worse, all the citizens of this province and the choices they have made about the representation they have selected. None of us is perfect. All of us are sometimes prone to forget the basic and fundamental respect for each other's right of expression in this House. One or two of us on occasion may even have tested the patience of members in terms of the length of some of our replies to the penetrating questions that were asked. The role of Speaker is to bring order to our deliberations so that despite our partisan divisions, despite those controversies that may prevail, we are able, as a people's parliament, to choose and decide on their behalf.

The member for Lake Nipigon not only did that job admirably, but he has set an example that all who follow will want to emulate, not only in this Legislature, but in other legislatures of this country. He has earned the respect, the gratitude and the friendship of all members of the assembly, our predecessors who are no longer with us, and through his example I think he has strengthened the institution of Speaker.

On behalf of the members on this side of the House, I wish to express to him, through you, Mr. Speaker, our profound gratitude. Whatever partisan divisions may now divide us, I want him to know that, sitting to your left, Mr. Speaker, the member for Lake Nipigon has 70 admirers on your right. There was nothing philosophical in my reference to the fact that the member for Lake Nipigon is sitting on your left, Mr. Speaker. I would never introduce that into these remarks.

May I also take this opportunity, of course, to express our thanks from this side of the House to the member for Perth (Mr. Edighoffer) who as Deputy Speaker during the last session discharged his responsibilities so well. The standards of parliamentary debate that prevailed had a lot to do with the kind of role that

distinguished member played in the Legislature over the past few years. I think other members will concur with me when I also express our appreciation to the former member for Humber, Mr. MacBeth, for his distinguished service as Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole House.

2:10 p.m.

While I am on my feet, may I extend my personal congratulations to the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Smith), to the member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy), to all of the members sitting opposite who were successful on March 19, although with numbers somewhat reduced. Mr. Speaker, you will understand why I might say with some pride that I would also like to congratulate and extend my best wishes to this rather large and distinguished group on this side of the House.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, with only half as many, you have to clap twice as loud, unfortunately.

I certainly want to rise to join with the Premier in paying tribute to the previous Speaker, the member for Lake Nipigon. I enjoyed serving under your predecessor, Mr. Speaker; I believe he raised the level of Speakership in the traditions of our assembly. He was truly nonpartisan in the way he conducted the role.

I confess that from time to time I may have disagreed with the occasional decision he made, particularly when he would demand that the Leader of the Opposition get to the point. I seldom understood why he would insist on something as difficult as that, but he did. I sometimes felt that he might have asked the Premier to get to the point a little sooner, but that would have been asking for the impossible, I suspect.

I do feel, however, that what the Premier has said about the member for Lake Nipigon is absolutely true. I believe he has served us selflessly. I believe he has served us not only in the chamber but as a spokesman among his fellow Speakers, among Commonwealth Speakers.

In dealing with various delegations of a parliamentary nature from other parts of Canada and the world, I can say that he has always conducted himself with great dignity and has brought considerable credit to Ontario and to the Legislature of Ontario. In fact, so much do I agree with what the Premier has said about the member for Lake Nipigon that I might even, without any disrespect to yourself, sir, wonder aloud as to why this worthy gentleman was not reappointed to the job.

I personally believe he served this Legislature extremely well. All of us are proud to be associated with him as members of this House and we certainly wish him all the best in any other role which may come his way as time passes. I know that members join with me in that.

With regard to the former Deputy Speaker (Mr. Edighoffer), he has taken on a far more difficult role now in terms of having to keep order and decorum. He is now the chairman of the Liberal caucus. I can only say that the experience he has gained in this House while sitting in the chair which you occupy, Mr. Speaker, has at least been a minor league preparation for the task which he now has before him every Tuesday at caucus; an apprenticeship indeed.

Certainly, I also want to pay tribute to Mr. MacBeth who is a person for whom I have the greatest personal respect.

As I did on television on the night of the election, I congratulate the Premier and I congratulate all members of this House on achieving election to this House, some with razor thin majorities, others with huge, whopping majorities despite my best efforts, and maybe in one or two instances because of those best efforts.

Mr. Hennessy: That's right.

Mr. Smith: Gratitude is showing itself in many ways.

I wish all members on all sides well and I look forward to the conduct of the present session of the Legislature.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I think this is a moment to be savoured. It is a moment of calm before the partisan storms begins to burst on this assembly.

I want to join the Premier and the leader of the official opposition in saying some words of tribute to my colleague and my friend, the member for Lake Nipigon, who I believe will go down in the history of Ontario as the finest Speaker to serve this Legislature during the life of the Conservative government since 1943. His appointment as the first opposition MPP to be the Speaker of the Ontario Legislature was an innovation. He will be remembered as the Speaker who presided over this chamber during a period of great innovation in the Ontario

Legislature, and as a Speaker who himself was responsible for encouraging and for introducing many of those innovations.

He has played an enormous role in restoring respect for the chair in our Legislature, a Legislature which at times has had a certain reputation for being almost unruly, if not vigorous; and he has done so because of the firmness and determination that he brought to the job in the three and a half years that he held it since October 17, 1977.

There were times, I confess, when his colleagues from the New Democratic caucus felt that the member for Lake Nipigon was ruling with an exceptionally firm hand. I understand that members of other caucuses also felt that at times, because that was in the nature of the job as the member for Lake Nipigon chose and saw his duty to carry it out, that is that Mr. Speaker should be independent and should be impartial, and that he had a task to uphold the tradition, not just for this Legislature but for parliamentary assemblies everywhere. The independence of the speakership of a parliamentary assembly is absolutely vital in our democratic form of government. Mr. Speaker, it was a service that the member for Lake Nipigon gave, to affirm and to reaffirm every day that he sat in your chair, that principle of independence and of impartiality.

We have seen great changes in this place in the three and a half years since the member for Lake Nipigon assumed the chair. The control of the legislative building is finally being transferred to the Speaker, and that, I believe, is something that must not be lost sight of.

The administration of the office of the services of the Legislature is now in the hands of Mr. Speaker and of the Board of Internal Economy, and even though the board is controlled by government members, it is a tripartite board, and it is a board of members of the Legislature, whereas in the past the legislative services were controlled by the government.

We have seen dramatic changes in the rules, including innovations which are almost without precedent in legislatures across the world, in terms of the use of private members' hour.

We have seen substantial use of Speaker's warrants, particularly in the select committee on plant shutdowns and layoffs, once again, where the power of the Legislature through the Speaker was being exercised and being exercised effectively.

We have had a complete reform and rebuilding of the legislative library.

All of these were in part the product of minority government, but the member for Lake Nipigon had the wisdom and the foresight to help make them happen. In addition to that, he is responsible for a number of innovations personally, ranging from the daily Speaker's parade, which was modelled after Westminster, after Mr. Speaker visited the mother of parliaments, to the annual Christmas party which was introduced by the member for Lake Nipigon and which brought together not just the Premier and members of this Legislature, but every one of the people who make the Legislature possible, from the cleaners and the cooks and the secretaries and legislative assistants to the cabinet ministers and leaders of the three parties, bringing the legislative family together at least once during the year, a tradition which I hope will continue.

The most important legacy however, which the member for Lake Nipigon leaves, is the manner in which he upheld the independence of this Legislature. That is a legacy that Ontario cannot afford to lose.

I would like to join with the Premier and with the Leader of the Opposition in also paying tribute to the member for Perth (Mr. Edighoffer) and to the former member for Humber, Mr. MacBeth, for the role that they played as Deputy Speakers and as the chairmen of committees over the course of the last parliament. Nothing, in my view, would commend the new Speaker to the Legislature more than that he and his Deputy Speaker and chairman of committees would seek to carry out their duties with the same independence, firmness and impartiality which have been demonstrated over the period of their tenures by my colleague from Lake Nipigon, and the member for Perth and the former member for Humber.

2:20 p.m.

I would also like to join in congratulating all members of this Legislature on their arrival in this place. To the rather large number who are gracing the back row of the Conservative benches, I can assure them that they may be here only once. They may wonder, after a few weeks, why they came here at all. Nonetheless as participants and as fellow MPPs, they are welcome.

I would in particular like to say a word of tribute on behalf of my colleagues who retired or were defeated in the course of the election campaign, and who served this Legislature, this province and their party with ability, energy and determination. They served this province well, and I believe that they will be missed in the life

of the 1981 parliament, as will those members of the Liberal and Conservative parties who took their retirement by choice, or were defeated in the recent election.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to congratulate you personally, sir, on your election to the highest and what I consider to be the most important office in this assembly. It will not be an easy task. You will be tried. You will need an abundance of patience and your usual good humour in order to survive.

I feel you have all of the qualifications to carry out the onerous responsibilities you will have as the chief presiding officer, as the chairman of the Board of Internal Economy and as president of the Ontario branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. You have an excellent bank of human resources with you and behind you that will stand you in good stead. I am sure that has been something which has been made quite clear to you just in the two days in which you have held this honourable office.

I want to offer to you personally, sir, any support, moral or otherwise, that I can give you in this onerous task. We have had some discussions within the last 48 hours and I want to say publicly that if I can assist you in any way, you know where you can reach me.

I also join with my colleagues who have already spoken in paying tribute to a very close and dear friend who has stood with me and by me during the past three and a half years, the honourable member for Perth (Mr. Edighoffer), for his service, dedication and sense of purpose in the office of Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the committee of the whole House, as well as to our colleague, the former member for Humber, John MacBeth. It was as a result of their support and encouragement that I was effective in carrying out the duties of Speaker.

There were many others, Mr. Speaker, the table officers in particular, who were of very great assistance to me in carrying out my duties, especially those dealing with procedural matters. To them, I am forever grateful.

One person in particular who has served well, in every sense of the word, not only this Legislature, but the people in Ontario, is the secretary of the Ontario branch of the CPA, namely, John Holtby. I think we all owe him, personally, a great debt of gratitude for the way in which he has carried out the responsibilities of our liaison with the Commonwealth family of nations. The Leader of the Opposition referred to that aspect of the Speaker's responsibilities and the activities and the role played by Ontario as a member of the Commonwealth family, and I would like to pay particular tribute to John Holtby for the contribution he has made in that regard.

I would also like to thank the Sergeant-at-Arms, Tom Stelling, for the supportive role he has played in making my task a lot easier. I must apologize to him personally for not having looked after him in a much better way, and I hope that is something you will be able to resolve, Mr. Speaker, in a way that I was not able to.

Mr. Stelling now occupies a small room just to the west of the Amethyst Room on the main floor of this building. He shares that room with his secretary and with Mr. Michael O'Neill, who is now the manager of parliamentary and public relations on our behalf. We can only do so much with the space we have but that is one of the things I feel badly about having left undone. I am sure that you, Mr. Speaker, will look after that particular problem at your earliest opportunity.

I also want to pay particular tribute to the security staff in this building, particularly the assembly platoon, who under very trying circumstances have stood us in good stead, have carried out their duties with decorum and in a true sense being good public relations personnel on our behalf. Under very trying circumstances they have performed yeoman service on our behalf, and for that I thank them.

I would also like to pay tribute to Mr. Robert Fleming, our director of administration for the Office of the Legislative Assembly and all his staff; and the members of the Board of Internal Economy, representing on that board all members of the Legislature.

This is the first opportunity I have had to pay tribute to someone who served long and hard in a very dedicated fashion on our behalf, namely, Mr. Bill Wilson, who was our director of personnel and passed away shortly after Christmas. There was.not an opportunity for any of us to state publicly how much we appreciated the service he performed with us, for us, and on our behalf. I think I would have been remiss if I had not made mention of that fact at the earliest possible moment.

I would also like to pay tribute to Mr. Brian Land, who is our director of library information and research services. I am sure that all the old members and some of the new members will appreciate the services that are now available on the fourth floor. They will shortly be in the

inner core of the basement, in the north wing. Some of them, because of the shortage of space, will have to be located on the sixteenth floor of the Hydro building.

We have an excellent group of people in our library research and information services. I think a good deal of the credit goes to Mr. Brian Land for having provided that service to us. I felt it incumbent to mention that to members.

I would also like to mention publicly the excellent relationship I had with the Office of the Ombudsman, who reported to this assembly through the Speaker's office, and also to the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses, the chief election officer, who is also our Clerk, and the provincial auditor. It was as a result of the very close relationship I had with all those people that I was able to carry out my duties as Speaker on the members' behalf.

I would like to say it is unfortunate that all members of the assembly could not have the opportunity I have had, in the way I have had, over the past three and a half years. It is an experience that I value highest among all my experiences. It is one that has broadened my horizons somewhat. It has more than anything else taught me to be a good listener. I would like to say a personal thanks to everyone who has supported me in any way possible. It was an experience I will never forget. I want to thank all the members here for their support, their encouragement and for making that experience possible. Thank you very much.

Applause.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: As Speaker of this assembly, while everyone is in such a good mood I am not going to let this opportunity go by without taking advantage of it to pass along to the member for Lake Nipigon officially the best wishes of the Premier the Leader of the Opposition and the leader of the New Democratic Party.

I would also like to add my own best wishes and congratulations and pay tribute to you for the work you did, and for the help which you have been so generous in giving me.

To the member for Perth (Mr. Edighoffer) and, of course, to the former member for Humber, Mr. MacBeth, I would like to extend the best wishes of the three leaders and myself. Thank you very much.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

COMMITTEES

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate to the House that on tomorrow's Notice Paper I hope to have motions standing in my name which will propose to re-establish a standing committee structure which will be virtually identical to the system in the last parliament. Only the size and, of course, the parties' ratio of members will be different.

The motions that are on the paper will not refer to any select committees. However, I would like to inform the members that it is the government's intention to move to establish certain select committees shortly before we adjourn for the summer recess, so that these bodies might take up special responsibilities to be assigned to them over the summer recess.

I might say that at this time we are contemplating a revival of the select committee on company law, the select committee on the Ombudsman and, as indicated in the throne speech, the appointment of a select committee to examine various proposals for pension reform. It may be that additional committees will be appropriate and if so, and if it is considered wise to establish them, they will be considered before the summer recess.

I also want to indicate to the House today with respect to some of the business of the last parliament, firstly that the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Walker) will today be making a statement on the future of the last parliament's annual report referral to the standing committee on administration of justice of what has been called the Re-Mor matter.

In addition, there are consultations under way as to how this House might have brought before it the work of the former select committee on plant shutdowns so that this House can consider that work. Further, as the Minister of Labour (Mr. Elgie) has already announced, he will be introducing a bill dealing with certain matters studied by the select committee on plant shutdowns and this bill will be considered, of course, not only by this House but at the appropriate standing committee, again giving opportunity for full discussion of these matters.

I might also inform the House, Mr. Speaker, that we are considering bringing the report of the last parliament's standing committee on administration of justice on the Ontario Housing Corporation and local housing authorities to the House for discussion.

While I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, although I realize it is not completely proper, I think etiquette would dictate that I draw to your attention that in the Speaker's gallery there is a group of legislative interns from the state of Ohio who are here for a few days to study and consult with many of our legislators and legislative people here. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, you would want that this House would warmly welcome them to our proceedings.

Mr. Speaker: I just want to add my best wishes and recognize the interns from Ohio and also welcome them to Ontario and, particularly, to this assembly. Thank you very much.

SPECIAL WARRANTS

Hon. Mr. McCague: Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the House rules, I am today tabling the special warrants approved while the Legislature was not in session. Copies of these special warrants have been placed in the postal box of each member.

A special warrant is an order under section 4 of the Management Board of Cabinet Act, signed by the Lieutenant Governor, authorizing expenditures of an urgent nature for which no appropriation exists, and is permissible only when the Legislature is not in session. It differs from a management board order primarily in that an MBO may only increase the spending levels of an appropriation that already exists, whereas the special warrant has the effect of creating a new appropriation.

The two special warrants that were approved were both of an urgent nature that could not be delayed until the current session of the Legislature, since authority for making payments had to be in place on April 1 for the beginning of the new fiscal year. Normally these payments would be made upon a motion of interim supply being adopted by the Legislature. Each minister has requested an amount based on the anticipated cash flow for the first three months of the fiscal year. When the 1981-82 expenditure estimates are tabled, the amount provided by special warrant will be deducted from the amount to be voted.

For particulars concerning these special warrants, I would suggest that questions be directed to each minister.

ASTRA/RE-MOR

Hon. Mr. Walker: As the new Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, I wish to advise the House on the government's plans to deal with the various issues arising out of the financial collapses of Astra Trust, Re-Mor Investment Management Corporation and related companies.

The various issues to be considered fall quite logically into three groupings. First, there are the issues related to the Astra/Re-Mor investors. The basic question in respect of these issues is what the government intends to do about the claims being made for compensation. Second, there are the issues related to the general administration of laws affecting mortgage brokers and related financial institutions. The basic question in this respect is what administrative or legislative changes are necessary to avoid the recurrence of another Astra/Re-Mor situation. Third, there are the circumstances that have led to the laying of criminal charges.

Dealing first with the concerns of the Astra/Re-Mor investors, some members will recall that, at the dissolution of the last parliament, efforts were being made to resolve the claims for compensation by following two quite different courses of action. Pursuant to undertakings made by the Premier (Mr. Davis), by the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) and by my predecessor, the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea), the law officers of the crown have been attempting to expedite the lawsuits that have been brought against the crown and the former registrar of mortgage brokers.

It was hoped that several representative test cases could be agreed upon and brought to trial at an early date. Under this proposal, the Ontario government will pay the legal costs of counsel for the Astra/Re-Mor investors in the test cases and, by reaching an agreement with the counsel for the investors on the facts and issues, the usual drawn out and costly processes that seem inevitably to accompany civil litigation will be avoided. The results of these test cases will provide guidance for the resolution of all the claims against the crown.

This process was initiated in recognition of the government's responsibility, as clearly stated by the Premier, to act justly, not only in its dealings with the claimants but also in the discharge of its responsibility to the public at large.

Because of the federal government's responsibility for Astra Trust, a fair determination of the extent of the province's liability can only be made if there is a determination of the federal government's liabilities. Unfortunately, it is not possible to add the federal government as a party to these test cases, and any judicial determination of the federal liability can only be

made in a separate set of cases in a federal court. The federal crown law officers have made it clear to our crown law officers that they expect the province to rely on all its legal defences against the claims of the investors.

This means, if the province does not rely on its legal rights in these cases, the federal crown will resist payment of any claim against it for contribution to the investors on the ground that the province did not properly defend itself. This attitude has made it much more difficult to reach agreement with the counsel for the investors on the issues that should be argued in the test cases.

2:40 p.m.

At the same time as the provincial crown law officers have been attempting to expedite the legal processes, officials of my ministry have been attempting to find common ground with the federal Department of Insurance and the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation that would allow a fair and just negotiated settlement of the claim with the Astra/ Re-Mor investors.

Our negotiations were in part based on recommendations made by the receiver-manager and trustee in bankruptcy of Re-Mor. As an independent person charged with winding up the affairs of Re-Mor, the receiver-manager had been advised by his legal counsel that there was a substantial basis upon which the federal Department of Insurance and the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation might be found liable for the claims of the investors.

Our offer to open negotiations on the basis of the receiver-manager's observations and suggestions has not been accepted by the federal officials. Instead the federal officials are waiting for an opinion from their legal advisers before making any commitment. This was the position taken in February and today, some two months later, we are still waiting for the federal officials to advise us of their legal position on the investors' claims. Faced with these circumstances in which both of the provincial initiatives to obtain an expeditious result have been hampered by the lack of federal government co-operation, let me now state our position clearly.

The government wishes to reaffirm its offer to expedite the legal proceedings and to pay the legal costs of test cases. The crown law officers in the Ministry of the Attorney General will renew their efforts in this regard and take all reasonable steps to facilitate an early trial of the cases. The province will use its legal defences in the argument of these cases so that if it should subsequently be necessary to sue the federal government, we will not then be met with the criticism that we did not properly defend the interests of the provincial taxpayer. At the same time we will continue to pursue discussions with federal authorities and the receiver-manager in regard to any and all possibilities that could lead to a fair and equitable solution to the investors' financial position.

Turning to the second group of issues related generally to the administration of laws affecting mortgage brokers and other financial institutions, we believe this is an area that requires an in-depth review. The Astra/Re-Mor collapse raises a number of questions about the registration and control of mortgage brokers and other financial agents.

When the Mortgage Brokers Act was originally passed in 1960, the problem being addressed was the unfair terms under which mortgage funds were lent to borrowers. The problems before us today are the investment practices of mortgage brokers that may put funds they are dealing with for investors at an undisclosed risk. In other words, the focus of our attention has moved from ways to protect the borrower of mortgage moneys to ways to protect the investor in mortgages. Our preliminary review of the various investment practices indicates that at least four acts could be involved in a review of these practices.

Certain types of syndicated mortgages and practices involved in marketing such syndications result in trading in securities. However, the present legislation in some circumstances exempts such trading from control under the Securities Act. The question can be properly asked to what extent should these exemptions in the Securities Act be reviewed.

Some of the investment procedures involve mortgage brokers in situations where for all practical purposes an individual is acting very much like a loan and trust officer. However, since it is an individual person rather than a corporate person, the Loan and Trust Companies Act does not apply. The question therefore arises, is there a need to bring such arrangements under that act?

Some other recent financial difficulties have involved related companies acting in concert in a way that avoided the Mortgage Brokers Act and the Loan and Trust Companies Act. Should these arrangements be more closely regulated and should the Business Corporations Act be amended to stop these practices?

An alternative to more regulation that should

be looked at is less regulation, coupled with fuller disclosure requirements. Would the Astra/Re-Mor investors have been more cautious if there had been a requirement of a clear warning of risk on all documents issued in respect of noninsured investments?

Would the system be more effective if we did not require the registration of mortgage brokers who provided their services as an adjunct to other professional services, such as lawyers and accountants, and if we tightened up on the qualifications of those who are registered or licensed by the province to operate as a financial intermediary? Can we improve the system by prohibiting a wider range of non arm's-length investments and intercompany dealings by trust companies, mortgage brokers and related companies?

Should there be a very basic review of the actual and perceived significance of provincial registration of a person or business? A prime purpose of registration is to prevent known undesirable registrants from entering a field and to provide a mechanism for removing them when they are subsequently discovered. If it is now perceived by many that registration provides some form of guarantee, should the government ensure that there is some form of compensation available to make such a guarantee effective? And if a guarantee is to be provided, who should bear the cost, the registrants or the public?

Alternatively, should registration have a more limited significance and greater effort directed towards advising the public of their responsibility to assess the risks they are undertaking? What problems are created by the divided jurisdiction shared by the provincial and federal governments? How can these problems be minimized?

These are some of the questions and issues that the government is going to address in the next few months, and from this review we will be bringing forward our proposals for an improved system for the administration of mortgage brokers and related financial agents and institutions. These proposals could, of course, be reviewed by this House or a committee thereof.

Finally, with regard to the third set of issues, those that have led to the laying of criminal charges, I must of necessity be careful about what I say.

The president of Astra Trust, who was also the president of Re-Mor Investment Management Corporation, has been charged with theft, fraud and conspiracy to steal and to defraud. Similar charges have been laid against various officers and employees of these companies and a number of other persons involved in the collapse. As I have indicated, it is not appropriate for me to comment further on the charges or to relate them to my earlier comments.

RENT CONTROL

Mr. Speaker, I have a second statement, which deals with the matter of rent control. First, let there be no mistake, rent control will continue. This is a position made abundantly clear—

Interjections

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Walker: —by the Premier (Mr. Davis) on a number of occasions during the past two weeks. It is a position echoed by me since assuming this post.

Secondly, last Tuesday the Premier, in a meeting with media on other matters, responded to a question about the six per cent ceiling. He said that, in the light of an inflation rate of about 13 per cent and a prime interest rate of 17 per cent, he would not be married to the six per cent rate and that it is conceivable the ceiling could be varied. This is a position I support.

Let me make it clear as minister responsible for the rent control program, there is no review of the matter under way in my ministry. I have not personally reviewed the matter, and to my knowledge, no one in the Ministry of Consumer of Commercial Relations is considering it.

While a variety of observations have been made in the context of interviews on the matter of the ceiling and other areas of fine tuning, any attempt to rouse the public into thinking this program, which is considered to be basically sound, will be dramatically altered is just nonsense and is not justified.

BUDGET

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise the members of this House that on May 19 at 8 p.m. I will be presenting my budget to this Legislature.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Nixon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, just before the question period begins, I want to bring to your attention that the present standing order 27(b) states as follows:

"The order of oral questions shall start with two questions from the Leader of the Opposition, followed by two questions each from the leader or leaders of the other opposition parties

in order of their membership in the House; all parties shall then rotate in questioning, starting with the official opposition."

I am sure you understand, sir, that one of your prime duties is to see that each individual member has a fair and equitable access, not only in question period but in other matters that come before the House. Since there has been a change in the ratio of members, I bring to your attention that if you stick with the order as it has presently been utilized by your predecessors, it will mean that the members of the New Democratic Party will have an unnaturally expanded opportunity in the question period.

I would suggest that you might use your undoubted authority, particularly with the support of all sides, to amend the procedures in that connection so that all members will have a fair, equal and equitable opportunity in this and other matters.

Mr. Speaker: That is an interesting point of order and I certainly shall take it under consideration. Right off the top of my head I would be inclined to refer it to the procedural affairs committee. However, I will certainly consider it. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That would be about seven questions for each ministry.

Mr. Nixon: All the Premier's executive assistants would be making up fancy questions for us.

Interjections.

ORAL QUESTIONS

RENT CONTROL

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier. I would like to quote from the Premier's statement, as reported in the Citizen on March 7, during a recent election campaign, and I want to quote his words on the subject of rent review:

"I just want to make it abundantly clear I said some weeks ago—I have repeated it since—that we have no intention of altering the existing rent control program. That is specific. It is definitive."

How does the Premier jibe that statement with the statement just made in this House by the minister responsible for that program?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I have no difficulty whatsoever. I will not even suggest that certain members of his party at public meetings indicated their support for and consideration of alterations, and I am looking at the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp), where there was some suggestion made with respect to the ongoing rent review program that quite obviously at some point in time some consideration would have to be given to the parameters that make up the program.

Mr. Peterson: He had the guts to do it before.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I know the position of the member who just interjected. He would do away with rent review altogether. I know that is probably going to be a part of his leadership campaign as he addresses the Liberal delegates. He will be saying, "Elect me leader and there will be no more rent review program." He will probably get his father-in-law's vote for that. He would not go to his meetings.

I have to be very careful in commenting on the total accuracy of that statement, but I made it abundantly clear during the campaign in reply to erroneous, unfair—and I could even become more extreme—suggestions by certain still members of this Legislature as to what the policies of the Progressive Conservative Party would be. I made it clear then, and I have made it clear since, that rent control would remain. That has not altered and it will not alter as long as I am the Premier of this government and of this province. I make that clear.

I know that I am not supported by a lot of members opposite. I know that Paul Cosgrove has caused them substantial embarrassment by indicating that we should remove the rent control program, but in spite of Paul Cosgrove, the rent control program will remain.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, by way of supplementary, since the Premier's statement was, "We have no intention of altering the existing rent control program," and since the six per cent guideline is absolutely fundamental to the present program, can we assume, therefore, that the Premier agrees with his minister that the six per cent guideline is somehow something meaningless?

Why did the Premier not mention during the election, when he tried to give the clear impression that the program would remain unaltered, that he might just change the key element in the program, an element about which we had an election five years ago? Why did he not mention that that element would be changed?

When it comes to telling the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, I guess during election campaigns two out of three is not bad.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, if I have made

it two out of three times, that is 100 per cent better than the Leader of the Opposition did during the election.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I want to make a prediction before this House and I will put it in the form of a question. The prediction is that it is only a matter of months before rent control as we know it in Ontario will be taken away by this government, whatever the Premier has to say right now.

He will either increase the six per cent ceiling, or he will go forward with a selective decontrol which has been proposed by the minister responsible, or else he will proceed with the proposals of the minister on the air this morning to take rent control away from apartments renting for more than $400 a month. Which of those three is going to go first?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, if the leader of the New Democratic Party is as accurate in the predictions he has made here today as he was before March 19, you will understand just how fallacious those predictions are.

Mr. Peterson: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: It is absolutely beyond me that the Premier has no shame in this matter. He has hoodwinked everybody in this province and he comes in after the election and changes it. Does that not bother his conscience just a little bit or does he not have one?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I realize the member for London Centre is always concerned about conscience. I can only say to him that he should look at his own conscience in terms of some of the questions he asks and some of the positions he takes publicly and privately, particularly as related to some economic issues.

I will not get into his positions publicly and privately on matters like energy. I know he is campaigning for the leadership of his party so I fully understand the tenor and the nature of the question he has asked.

Mr. Philip: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Would the Premier assure the House that any changes in the rent review program would first be put into a paper similar to the green paper on continuing tenant protection which was published in 1978 and go out to committee before any changes in legislation are put through, so that tenant groups and other interested groups can at least have a public input into those changes?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I would only say to the honourable member, and I said this on the day of the discussions with the press over the throne speech, that I cannot give any such commitment because, as I said to the press, I am not contemplating and have not been contemplating any changes to the program.

Mr. Martel: What is the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations doing?

Mr. Cassidy: What is he doing?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Members on this side of the House are charged with the responsibility of running their ministries. They have to give thought to a lot of things. It is time the members opposite started thinking for a change. They would not have had such a diminution in population if they had been thinking a few weeks ago.

I would say to the honourable member who asked the question, if memory serves me correctly, he was one of those at a meeting with tenants who indicated that at some point in time some consideration might have to be given to the six per cent. Correct me if I am wrong. I happen to think he said that.

3 p.m.

Mr. Smith: A final supplementary if I might, Mr. Speaker. Would the Premier put this matter to rest by making a commitment right now that rent review will remain throughout the life of this Legislature until at least the next election?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I give my commitment that rent control will remain as long as I am the Premier of this government, yes.

ASTRA/RE-MOR

Mr. Smith: A question for the Premier. All of us heard the Premier give his personal assurances to the Re-Mor investors during the course of the campaign that they would be dealt with fairly and quickly. He said they would not be put through legal hoops of any kind or over legal obstacles of any kind. A quick test case would be arranged and the whole thing would be very simply dealt with.

He was on an open line program that I happened to hear. Now how—

Interjections.

Mr. Smith: I had nothing else to do that day.

Would the Premier now please explain how he can possibly face the people of Ontario in these circumstances? His minister today has used the feeble excuse that if it should sometime be necessary to sue the federal government, it might have been well to have put the Re-Mor investors through all kinds of legal obstacles

first, so as to strengthen the province's case. But on that flimsy excuse, is the government now going to put the Re-Mor investors through a difficult and lengthy court process so that these elderly people who have lost their life savings will have to somehow defeat the province using every conceivable legal argument at its disposal? Is it going to do that rather than what it should do?

The government gave them the licence when it should not have given it to them, so it should reimburse the investors and then go and negotiate with the federal government for that money.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition, as is his custom, tends to oversimplify these issues. I know what he said to the Re-Mor investors during the course of the campaign. He would write them a blank cheque.

I was always very frank with the Re-Mor investors. I made it abundantly clear to them. I said it many times—far more times than he did because they came to more of my meetings than to his. He would have satisfied them and every other group the first time they appeared. He would give away the store.

I made it abundantly clear that as Premier of this province, I have a responsibility—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Of course he would. He was going to give a billion dollars away to a methanol program. Did he ever calculate how much his 60 per cent to Metro of the educational cost would be? It would be 100 per cent in Moosonee. Does he know he would have bankrupted the province?

I was so embarrassed for him we did not even do any calculations. We refer to those as policies from the back of the bus. Bumpy—

Well, never mind. We are debating and I did not mean to do this.

But I am delighted to know he listened to me during the campaign. I never had that opportunity to listen to him because I was out campaigning. I was hard at work. I was enjoying myself.

I said to the Re-Mor investors I would see that every effort is made to expedite what claims they may have. But I also pointed out to them, which is not that easy for me, that I have a responsibility to eight million plus other Ontarians. If the government makes a payment to the Re-Mor investors, then it is the public of this province who is then responsible in terms of the moneys that are paid. And I have to satisfy myself, the government has to satisfy itself, there is a basis for that payment. I made it clear that we would expedite it.

The Attorney General's law officers have met with members of the legal profession. They are prepared to meet again, in fact are initiating it, to find ways and means of expediting it.

The Leader of the Opposition might give the Prime Minister a call. Perhaps he might have done this during the campaign; while he would not have the Prime Minister here for breakfast, I think he will still talk to him. He could ask the Prime Minister to talk to the federal ministers and get them to understand that Astra Trust was very directly involved in this. They should show the same degree of reasonableness the Ontario government is prepared to show, and maybe we could get this issue resolved much more expeditiously.

Let the member give them a call. Let him call them this afternoon and tell them what his point of view is.

Mr. Smith: By way of supplementary: since we have in this instance hundreds of Ontario people who have lost their life savings after a lifetime of hard work in a situation in which the federal government licensed the front for the scam, but in which the Premier and his government erroneously—and I use that word charitably—erroneously licensed the scam itself, why is he going to put these investors, who have lost their fortunes through the negligence of this government, why is he going to force them to go through these legal hoops, all kinds of red tape, every conceivable legal argument?

Many of them will die before they receive their money. Why doesn't he pay them the money they deserve and then negotiate on a political basis, not necessarily a legal one, with the federal government, to get a fair share from that government as well? That is what he should do.

Hon. Mr. Davis: With great respect, Mr. Speaker, we have done the latter, and I am just saying to the member, if he really is interested, let him give his federal friends a call and tell them. He should give them a call.

I am glad that he is being charitable. He should have showed a little charity over the last couple of years, he might have done better.

I would only say to the member, this government is committed to seeing that equity is done, but at the same time, we have to have a basis. There has to be a determination of negligence or liability. We are not putting up a lot of red tape. We are not putting up a lot of fictitious defences. We want to see this issue resolved.

I happen to have met a number of these people. I have a respect for them. I am sympa-

thetic. I have told them that. But I have also told them that being Premier is a lot different from being Leader of the Opposition. I have a responsibility to the total community and I am going to discharge that responsibility as I see it.

Mr. Swart: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: The Premier went much further during his campaign, according to many newspapers, than just saying he would expedite the court proceedings. He made a statement that he would compensate the Re-Mor investors if government negligence in the licensing of Re-Mor is proved.

Is he willing to reaffirm that commitment here today? And recognizing the question before the court is not the proof of negligence but is relative to legal liability, will he ask the court now to determine if there was government negligence and then keep that commitment if the court rules that way?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I do not want the member from Welland-Thorold to become apoplectic. If he will really read what I said carefully or understand what I said carefully, he will see I chose my words very carefully. I said if there was either negligence or liability. That commitment still stands. I said negligence or liability.

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, is the Premier aware of the fact that some 15 years ago British Mortgage and Atlantic Acceptance Corporation Limited were licensed by this province and it is just within the last few months that those people in that connection have been given some satisfaction? They were given the promise at that time that it would not happen again.

I wonder if he is familiar with that case and if that is what is going to happen this time again.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I have some modest knowledge of it, although I, being much younger than the honourable member, I do not have the same degree of recollection that he does, but I do not know what relevance that has to this particular issue.

SEVERANCE PAY

Mr. Cassidy: I have a new question for the Premier with respect to the promise which was made by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Elgie) last December when he said that the government was prepared to introduce severance pay legislation by way of amendment to the Employment Standards Act at the earliest possible time in the next session of the Legislature, presumably at 3:30 p.m. or 4 o'clock this afternoon.

Is the Premier not ashamed that an hour before the throne speech was even read he was disowning that promise which had been made on behalf of the government by the Minister of Labour last December, and will he now tell us whether a promise is a promise with respect to severance pay or not?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think there is just a little more history to this than the honourable member has suggested. As I recall—and I am going by recollection—in answer to the questions in the House, certain statements were made. I think it is also fair to state that, as I recall it, there was some discussion of having the committee, then of the House, continue some of its discussions in January or February with respect to other people who wished to make appearances before the standing committee.

I see the newly elected House leader of the New Democratic Party and I congratulate him on his re-election. I think it is tremendous—I guess.

3:10 p.m.

Mr. Martel: It hurts, doesn't it?

Hon. Mr. Davis: It doesn't hurt me at all. I understand the member's leader broke the tie.

Mr. Martel: It was even closer than that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: My recollection is that the committee was going to continue its deliberations, that in fact there were still other groups to be heard.

I just want to make it clear—the member may want to direct a question to the minister himself—that the government is in the process of preparing legislation for consideration by this House. It will not be today, it will not be necessarily next week—that is what the minister said—but it will be in this session.

Mr. Martel: It was what the Premier said on Tuesday.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, the minister in fact said it would be introduced at the earliest possible moment, and since the committee twice unanimously recommended that severance pay should be based on a week of severance pay for every year of service, will the Premier commit the government to that as the basis of the legislation to be presented to the Legislature this spring?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I should perhaps take this opportunity to explain some of the realities of March 19 to the leader of the New Democratic Party. The reality is that certain things have changed.

I am not going to give an undertaking to the

leader of the New Democratic Party on the contents of proposed legislation. Traditionally they are made apparent when legislation is introduced, and that is when members will find out what is in it.

I myself do not know, at this point, exactly what will be in it, so I am not going to give any assurances at this moment. Members will see it and will have an opportunity to debate it. I expect that, when sanity returns, the leader of the New Democratic Party may even end up voting for it.

Mr. Smith: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: If this is a matter where the government has every intention of following through on its promise, unlike the matter of Re-Mor or rent review; if in this instance the Premier is going to be able to keep his promises without needing to be reminded, may I ask whether the Premier merely overlooked this matter as unimportant in the preparation of the throne speech, and why he found it necessary to point out to the people of Ontario, "I haven't promised anything" on the matter of severance pay?

If, in fact, the only reality of March 19 is going to be that promises made before March 19 are not going to be kept after March 19, then it would appear that the arrogance has already set in, earlier than I expected it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I don't want to be provocative today, but if there is anyone who can define arrogance in this House, it is the member for Hamilton West, and it showed for 44 days, in living colour, as he was packing his bags, heading west. I did see some of his commercials.

Mr. Smith: I thought the Premier was out campaigning, but he had time to watch television.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I watched television after the late news and those commercials were usually on at 12:05. Actually, I haven't the foggiest idea when they were on.

Mr. Smith: They came right after Foodland Ontario and before "Preserve it, conserve it."

Hon. Mr. Davis: I really do not know what the honourable member is inquiring about. I have made it quite clear that the government intends to introduce a bill. I have not been, neither am I, able to tell or give commitments as to its contents.

Mr. Smith: But it wasn't in the throne speech.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The honourable member asks why it was not in the throne speech. I have more news for him. There will about another 30 or 40 pieces of legislation in this session that were not included in the throne speech.

Mr. Mackenzie: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: I remind the Premier that the reality is not the result of the election. Probably the most definite statement I have heard by a minister in this House was that we would get severance pay legislation. It was sufficiently specific also to state that the legislation would be retroactive to the beginning of this year.

Can the Premier tell us if that will also be part of the legislation we shall get?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am not trying to be difficult, but the honourable member must wait until the legislation is introduced in the House.

Mr. Mancini: I would like to redirect a supplementary question to the Minister of Labour, who would be responsible for the legislation, Mr. Speaker.

I can recall back last December when the Minister of Labour stood in his place and stated to the House very clearly that he had accepted the principle of severance pay, that principle would be put in legislation and that principle would commence as of January 1, 1981. I want to know from the Minister of Labour if he intends to keep his promise.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I am quite delighted to respond to my friend, whom I am glad to see back in the House, by the way, but would you please tell me if this is a proper redirection or if it is, indeed, a new question?

Mr. Mancini: Why is the minister afraid to answer the question?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate that I think we have perhaps fallen into a habit of redirecting in a way that I think is detrimental to the processes of the question period.

To ask supplementaries to an original question to the person to whom that question was asked is perfectly proper, but to start using supplementaries and redirecting to other ministers is really asking a new question. The member should stand in his place, and in the place with other members, and take his turn to ask a question of the member.

I think it may be argued that we were doing that in this place, but I was watching question period at Westminster a couple of weeks ago. The honourable former Speaker referred to that as the mother of parliaments, and they certainly would not allow that kind of redirect at

Westminster. I think it would be well for us early in this session, Mr. Speaker, to decide that we are not going to have that kind of redirection of questions.

Mr. Nixon: I certainly want to bring to your attention, Mr. Speaker, that the example set by the mother of parliaments in question period is one we should not be following. Ours is far better.

What would be more reasonable under our rules, or for anyone with common sense, than that the matter having to do with severance pay and put as a matter of policy to the Premier should be redirected to the Minister of Labour for comment on his commitment to this matter? He has, as we would all agree, the right to refuse to answer, and I could even understand that he might refuse under these circumstances, but surely a referral is quite in order.

Mr. Martel: I find it strange, Mr. Speaker, that the House leader for the government would rise in his place today with that sort of interjection. It seems to me if he wants, and we have already agreed to discuss these matters, he could do so, but I do not think it is the role of the House leader to get up and attempt to direct the Speaker as he is obviously attempting to do. This started to develop some time ago, and at no time did I see the House leader or anyone else suggest to the former Speaker that he should change the rules in the middle of the game to suit the government. But that is, in fact, what is going on.

If the Premier and the Minister of Labour are slightly embarrassed by the Premier's statement last Tuesday in suggesting that this might go to House leaders and all that nonsense, I would remind the Premier that his friend, the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch), was also involved in those discussions with respect to severance pay.

If either the Premier or the Minister of Labour do not wish to answer the question, fine, but I wish the House leader would not interject in this way to avoid that. The Minister of Labour could simply say, "No, I do not want to answer it," or the Premier could get up and redirect the question as he is wont to do when he is caught in other embarrassing situations.

Mr. Speaker: It is my opinion that this, in fact, was a new question. The supplementary had been directed to the Premier. If there was to be a redirection of the question, it should have been to the minister or by the minister involved, which it was not.

3:20 p.m.

Mr. Martel: Could I ask the Speaker for some guidance? In the last couple of years, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, order. I have given my opinion. It is not debatable. If the member wishes to challenge it, fine.

Mr. Martel: I am asking for your guidance. I am trying to find out how it is that a procedure which has been followed for the last couple of years on direction from the House leader becomes a new question.

Mr. Speaker: I would argue that. It was my observation for the past few years that this was not employed.

Interjections.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, would you undertake to review the precedent of direction both in this House and in the House of Commons to see how many have been allowed by the questioner and report to the House?

Mr. Cassidy: I take it that was a yes and that the Speaker will review it. I appreciate that.

HOUSING PRICES

Mr. Cassidy: I have a new question for the Minister of Housing, Mr. Speaker, and it relates to the speculative frenzy which has led people to line up for 25 or 30 hours overnight in order to get a home they think they can afford. It has brought hundreds, if not thousands, of people into the housing market, buying houses almost sight unseen. It is bringing foreign money and money from western Canada into the housing market in cities like Metropolitan Toronto and it is driving the costs of housing out of the range of ordinary families in Metropolitan Toronto and across the province.

Is the government now prepared to reintroduce a land speculation tax which will stop that speculative frenzy and stop house prices being driven out of the reach of average families in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, I know if the leader of the third party would look clearly at the situation in this province—not just take one specific issue, but look at things on a more general basis—he would find that housing prices, other than for core communities, have been on a very general increase. They have not been beyond the rate of inflation that we are experiencing in this country and would not bear comparison with it.

In relation to the situation in Mississauga, this government—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I must say to the member that I don't happen to own a condominium. I do have a single-family residence in this community, as well as in Ottawa.

The latter part of the question in relation to the leader's question should be directed under a new question to the Treasurer.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: If the minister wants to redirect, I want to direct a question back to the minister responsible for housing.

Does the Minister of Housing have any plans or any proposals at all to defend people who are finding the dream of a home is going past them week after week because prices are going beyond their reach?

Does the Minister of Housing really believe that average families in Metropolitan Toronto, in Ottawa, London or Windsor, can afford housing when house prices have gone in many cases beyond $100,000 for a house that wouldn't have sold for $40,000 three years ago?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, it's great for the member to be in opposition and look at what his position might be in Ottawa and this community. He has been able to sell his home and gain some rather interesting capital positions. I trust the members would look at the statistics that not only come from this community but from the province of Ontario.

If one looks at the listings and the sales that were made in this metropolitan area last year—and I hope members will—almost 70 per cent of the units were under a market price of $80,000. Also 40 per cent of the sales were under $60,000.

The inflationary factor we have experienced in the real estate market has been generated by the construction industry and the real estate people and the newspapers which love to talk about the great profits that are being made in the metropolitan core area.

If one looks at the central part of these communities there has been a tremendous increase in price, far beyond what the average income earner would anticipate paying. But in the perimeter areas of this community and of Ottawa, if the leader of the third party would look at them on the odd occasion when he might visit that community, he will find that the prices are not beyond the middle income earner's opportunity of purchasing. I challenge him to show me in specific terms.

Mr. Smith: Supplementary: Is the minister not aware that to buy the average home in Metropolitan Toronto today requires a family income of $36,780 and that the average family income in Toronto is approximately $9,000 a year lower than that?

Is the minister not aware that right now in Metropolitan Toronto alone only one out of 10 people renting apartments can afford to buy the average home that might be available in Metropolitan Toronto? This is not the core; this is all of Metropolitan Toronto.

Finally, is the minister not aware of reports that have large amounts of foreign money coming into Toronto to buy, virtually sight unseen, any home that might come on to the market in certain instances?

What is the minister going to do to dampen the speculative fever that has now pushed Toronto homes at least out of the range of ordinary citizens?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: When I listen to the two questions now being asked, one is talking about the lineup of people waiting to buy homes because of inflation, speculation and so on, while I have the Leader of the Opposition wanting us to do something to dampen the market so people won't buy.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: That is exactly what they are coming to.

Mr. Cassidy: The Premier should have made the minister resign a long time ago.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: The public dealt with the leader of the New Democratic Party on March 19 and he announced his own destination about March 21, which a great number of people were delighted to hear about.

Frankly, if we get down to looking at the basic cost of shelter—and this was one of the things the Toronto Star indicated very clearly in a report yesterday or the day before—I say to the Leader of the Opposition, we have two problems.

We have people who want to buy housing and they usually want to buy at the top end of the range. Secondly, they are not only looking at the opportunity of shelter, but they are also looking at the opportunity for investment, an investment that is going to return to them some capital gain in not too many months or years down the road.

One cannot take into consideration the debt servicing cost of one's income to maintain a home when he or she is also looking at the fact that a portion of that expense is really on an investment. If we look at it fairly and frankly, if we are only talking about shelter and not the

potential of a long-term investment or a short-term investment, we would not be talking about 30 per cent for a gross debt service coming from one's income.

I think it is faulty for us to believe here or in Ottawa that by trying to implement more programs to reduce or freeze housing prices government is going to help this economy. It will help the economy in a reverse direction because the moment one tries to freeze prices and not other areas relating to the cost of development, I think one will find there will be very few developers left wanting to get into the housing market in Ontario.

Mr. Cassidy: By way of a final supplementary, Mr. Speaker, I believe I understand the minister to be saying that this government is not prepared to lift a finger for ordinary families looking to buy a house and finding the prices going out of their reach.

I would like the minister to be more specific. He said in response to me that he claimed the price of housing is not out of reach for middle income families. Would the minister say whether he believes the price of housing is within reach of working families across the province, or is it now the position of this government that working people in Ontario should no longer be able to own a home of their own?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, I did not say that, neither would I ever say it. We have tried to maintain the opportunity for all people in all income levels to own and operate their homes in this province.

Let me just draw to the attention of the House that the very same individual was criticizing the federal government and this government for getting into the assisted home ownership program a few years ago. I trust he will recall that program.

In the last session of this House I listened to criticism from the New Democratic Party that we sucked some people into housing ownership who couldn't afford the new mortgage rates we are going to experience in all of Canada.

Quite often what happens is that government gets involved in trying to put together a program that encourages to get into the purchasing of a home certain people who, for fair and just reasons, shouldn't be there because their incomes are not sufficient to meet the rising costs of ownership.

3:30 p.m.

Mr. Cassidy: Exactly what I said.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: If the honourable member will sit there and listen for a moment—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, if we are of the belief that everyone in this country is in a financial position to own a home, then there is going to have to be a drastic change in the price of housing, the price of land and the price of labour going into it.

I think we have to be realistic—in fact, one of the things about being in government is that we have to be realistic. The opposition can be as unrealistic as they want, but here we do become somewhat realistic. I have said it publicly—I am sure members read the Ottawa paper the odd time, the only one left in the city of Ottawa—where it indicates clearly that I have said it is not possible that everyone in this economy is going to own their own home, but the government has tried to assist. Let us take some credit as a government.

Going back not so many years ago, this public realized there had to be some heavy capital investments by the government in putting infrastructure in place to allow for much more land to be serviced and put on the market. This government, through the Treasurer, invested $106 million under the Ontario home assistance program which allowed Mississauga, the Ottawa-Carletons, Toronto and others to put on the market vast amounts of serviced land. Brampton is also included—not Main Street, Brampton, unfortunately, but the rest of Brampton.

The number of units that will come on in the medium price range in those communities is rather substantial over the next period of time.

The inflation, to some extent, Mr. Speaker, has been generated by the news media and a few others—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Read the press. They talk about a shortage. Let us look at the situation.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, the member for Ottawa Centre should not talk about how much it has gone up. He should look at his own case. As a New Democrat he does not even believe in capital gains but he will take whatever he can get, and his has gone up considerably.

Mr. Speaker, in this situation there happens to be a very substantial amount of land available for development and I would only like to say one thing very clearly. There is not, in the principal areas of this province, a shortage in serviced land available for the construction of private, single-family homes or multiple units.

I make it very clear, there is not. If the press

and others want to continue to say there is, as the minister I want to say there is not a shortage; there is ample land.

Mr. Peterson: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Given the fact that there is some evidence that there is a considerable amount of foreign money flowing into this province at this time, not only in farm land, as we have already established, but it appears now in housing also, would the minister be prepared to do an exhaustive study of that?

If, in fact, there is evidence of a large influx of money adding to the speculative frenzy going on in this city in particular and in others, would he be prepared to do something about it?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, I am sure some have read the federal government's answer to that very same question in the House of Commons yesterday. They do not know where all the foreign money we keep hearing about as coming into this country is coming from, either through direct investment or through trust company investments. I am not prepared at this time to undertake any massive review of investment capital in Ontario.

INTEREST RATES

Mr. Riddell: Thus far, Mr. Speaker, the questions posed in this assembly have been taken lightly by the government ministers, and if the question I wish to ask the Minister of Agriculture and Food is taken as lightly, then I would have to say that the people of Ontario, who gave way to arrogance over good government, are deeply in trouble.

My question is to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Knowing the serious problems facing Ontario farmers today, with bankruptcy increases of 91 per cent last year over 1979 and a 77 per cent increase in the first three months of this year over the same period last year, how can the minister continue to ignore the effects of high interest rates on the agricultural industry and simply blame the federal government?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, we are very much concerned over the situation that the farmers of this province are experiencing. We could take it to other parts of the industry as well.

The honourable member who is asking this question appears to be very seriously mixed up. This debate should be going on in the House of Commons, as he full well knows.

Interjections.

Mr. Riddell: Supplementary: I guess I expected that response, but is the minister aware that Ontario is lagging far behind other provinces in financial assistance programs to agriculture?

Why does he continue to shirk his responsibility in this manner and not bring in an emergency low-interest relief program and a low-interest long-term program that will give Ontario farmers an equitable financial position in Canadian agriculture?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: No, I am not aware of what the honourable member states. This province is taking its place with any other province in Canada.

Mr. MacDonald: Since the throne speech, presumably the minister is concerned about this problem. Will the minister explain why, after last year, when in advance of an election he allocated $25 million at least as a palliative, he has spent only $5 million? He washes it out after the election and does not spend what has already been authorized by this House.

Why does he not back up his concerns by at least using the money which the House has authorized?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member has made a statement which he knows is not the truth.

Those two honourable members were at a radio station with me and our position was pretty clear in that radio broadcast. The honourable member knows what I said that day full well, that we in our party recognize that the government of Canada has increased the interest to curb inflation and we believe that government should be responsible for any intervention. That was said long before election day by this minister on many occasions.

Mr. Martel: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I would ask, in view of the fact that my friend, I think inadvertently, tried to mislead the House into believing my colleagues are not telling the truth, that he should, in fact, withdraw that comment.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, I should have said that they were inaccurate and I apologize.

Mr. MacDonald: On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, the government allocated $25 million and the minister said they were spending $5 million. That is what I said; it is strictly accurate.

Interjections.

Mr. MacDonald: I have a new question for the Premier on the same topic.

Since the Ontario Federation of Agriculture yesterday postponed for three months a vote on the request that the Minister of Agriculture and Food should resign, is it possible that the Premier, since the Minister of Agriculture and Food apparently does not have any real influence in the cabinet, will come up with a program that would conceivably reflect what the Ontario Federation of Agriculture has presented to him today following its board of directors' meeting, or is he going to have nothing in terms of an answer to this other than passing the buck to Ottawa?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I have been somewhat busy and so far—I am sure it is in my office—I have not yet received that communication from the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. It may be there. I will certainly look at that communication and then perhaps answer the honourable member's question. But until I receive it, it really puts me in the somewhat difficult position of not being able to comment upon it with any degree of accuracy because I am not familiar with its contents.

Mr. MacDonald: Supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: I think there have been enough supplementaries.

Mr. MacDonald: That was my first supplementary on this question.

Mr. Speaker: All right.

Mr. MacDonald: Supplementary: When the Premier has a chance to read it, he will discover that in it, as part of their program, is a subsidization of interest rates. Will the Premier, as he has at least 51 per cent of the votes in the cabinet, reinstitute the unexpended $20 million in last year's appropriation for subsidization of farm interest rates, or is he, cynically, going to wash it out totally, now that the election is over?

3:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, my answer is still the same. I have not seen the contents of the brief.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would say to the member for York South that he referred to a part of the brief. I must see the total brief before I comment on it. I should make it clear to the member for York South that we do not vote in cabinet.

ENTRENCHMENT OF LANGUAGE RIGHTS

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier. This is the last day of the constitutional debate in Ottawa, and the Supreme Court of Canada will shortly be hearing the submissions of the federal government, including the Premier's submissions on the constitution. The Premier now has a majority and there has been another important development, the re-election of the Parti Quebecois in Quebec recently.

In view of these facts, would the Premier not accept the advice of one of his colleagues in the federal Conservative Party, Ron Atkey, who wrote in the Globe and Mail recently that the Premier assume the role of nation builder? Would the Premier not guarantee to the linguistic minority here in Ontario the same status that has been guaranteed to the minorities in Quebec, Manitoba and New Brunswick?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I could become a little bit partisan and say that the Liberal Party policy in Ontario, as I understood it, prior to March 19, was not to have entrenchment of section 133 apply to Ontario. That is what they said throughout the entire province. The Leader of the Opposition is nodding his head in agreement.

If the honourable member is saying to me that the Liberal Party of Ontario has changed its policy once again on this issue, as it has on so many issues, that is fine. I do not quarrel with that.

I would say to the honourable member that we took a position on the question of entrenchment of language. It is a very sensitive issue. We think we have given some real direction and leadership in provision of services to the francophone minority of this province, and I think a number of representatives from the Franco-Ontarian community would support that point of view.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Let me finish. We have had a fun question period today, but there have been some modest interruptions.

Mr. Roy: I did not interrupt the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The member was in the process, as always.

In our discussion of the language question, we made it abundantly clear that, as we saw our responsibilities here, we were not prepared to accept the entrenchment of section 133, and that position has not changed.

We can say that there has been an election and therefore one can change what one happens to believe in. I happen to believe that the route this government has been following in relation to the Franco-Ontarian minority has been one of extension of services and one of leadership.

What I have always perceived to be fundamental in the preservation of culture or language, and the question of assimilation, relates to the field of education. It was not the easiest decision in the world for this government to suggest—and I made the suggestion—that we entrench the educational rights of the minority, whether it is in Ontario or Quebec.

That is the position of Ontario and it is the one we have proposed. I would say to the member for Ottawa East, that position has not been endorsed with enthusiasm by the present government of Quebec, neither, in my recollection, was it supported enthusiastically by the leader of the Liberal Party in Quebec.

We are supporting that. It is in the package, and from our perspective at least, we think it is the answer to the language problem.

I was delighted during the campaign because I did not think this was the honourable member's position. I did not sense it was necessarily the position of, perhaps, some area of the party. I do not know that. All I know is that it was brought to my attention time and again that the leader of the Liberal Party agreed with the position we have taken.

Mr. Roy: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: The Premier knows full well that if he is prepared to give leadership in this field, he will not get opposition from the parties on this side.

Secondly, if the Premier is looking for signals of Canadian unity from the Parti Quebecois, whose underlying principle is the independence of Quebec, that is not a very good place to be looking.

Does the Premier not realize that in a few short years another referendum may be called on this constitutional package? How are we going to respond in Ontario? What are we going to tell the majority in Quebec at that time—that after the first opportunity in nation-building, in changing a constitution, we were prepared to accept a double standard, one standard for the minority in Quebec and another standard for the minority in Ontario? How is that going to wash in the next referendum?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I would only say that I am not aware of any other referendum.

Mr. Roy: Well, if the Premier hangs on, he may learn something.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That's fine. I expect I will hang on in this profession longer than the member opposite will.

Listen, it is a serious question, and it is fine for the member to come in here and play games. I want to remind him of something. We have debated this matter in this House. He knows the position I have taken. I think this government, in terms of the present constitutional debate, has, as much as any other province in Canada, demonstrated its commitment to patriation, entrenchment and moving the constitution to this country. It would have been a lot easier on some occasions to be on the other side, but I do not happen to believe in that position.

I also made it clear in this House that we would not support the entrenchment of section 133. We happen to believe we can do things internally in this province that are workable. I just ask the member for Ottawa East to turn around and speak to the member behind him, and just about every other member of his caucus, and he will find they agree totally with the position I have taken now for many months.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I speak to this issue in sorrow and in anger, and in this case, unlike the member for Ottawa East, I speak on behalf of the New Democratic Party of Ontario. We have consistently said that we believe Ontario should be prepared to take the initiative and take on the obligations of section 133 with respect to Franco-Ontarians and the French language rights in this province.

I ask the Premier, now that he has the position of a majority in Ontario, if he will not undertake to do two things: First, to accept those obligations; and second, on behalf of the government and the people of Ontario, to start seeking ways now in which this province can re-establish the links and relationships with our sister province, Quebec—that he will undertake to recognize that the Parti Quebecois, having been re-elected, is going to be there in Quebec for a long time and is not there on a temporary basis; and it is about time that Ontario and Quebec started to get together to solve common problems with respect to nationhood, with respect to our economy, and with respect to the rights of our linguistic minorities.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I find the leader of the New Democratic Party once again very contradictory in this question period.

At one point in the question period he was accusing this government of not meeting its commitments prior to March 19 in other areas. I made a commitment to the people of this province in this area. That commitment was that we were committed to patriation; we were committed to entrenchment; we were committed to the entrenchment of the language rights in the field of education.

But we also said we were not prepared to accept the entrenchment of section 133. The member opposite may play politics in a different fashion. Just because we have a majority does not mean I am going to change what I happen to believe.

I believe in the route we have gone. I believe in what this province has contributed to the constitutional debate. If we had not made that contribution, I doubt the debate would be where it is today. I do not think it would have got off the ground.

There is no question that the members opposite have been consistent on section 133, but their leader should not come in here and tell me at 2:30 in the afternoon that I am being inconsistent in what I said on some issues before March 19 and then, 20 minutes later, ask me to break my commitment to the people of Ontario on another issue.

I do not care whether I have a majority of five, of 50 or a minority. I happen to believe in the positions we have maintained. The member opposite can accept his position; we disagree. But he should not put it to me on the basis that I did not believe in what I was saying prior to March 19. I believed it then and I believe it now, and that maintains our position.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order. May I point out—and I think this is important—the question period, once again, has been dominated by the leaders. The back-benchers have not had a fair opportunity to make themselves heard. We did get out of order with respect to the motion by the member for York South (Mr. MacDonald) and I came back—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Now just a minute. I was keeping track of it and that is my opinion. It is a fact. That was the final supplementary. I recognize the member for Hastings-Peterborough (Mr. Pollock). Now we have a new question from that member.

BELLEVILLE CHEESE EXCHANGE

Mr. Pollock: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

In view of the importance of the dairy industry to that portion of the province which I represent, and in view of the minister's indications that the Ontario Milk Marketing Board is reviewing the possibility of disposing of the Belleville Cheese Exchange, which it owns and operates, I would like to know the current situation regarding this review.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, I think it is an honour to be asked a question by one of our new members on the first day of debate in the House. The question refers to a very serious situation. The members who were in the previous House know we debated this at quite a length during my estimates.

My memory tells me that the Ontario milk producers, at their annual meeting last summer, decided to see if there was not another way to make use of this facility. It was an expensive facility. The word went out that they were going to dispose of it or close it down.

I have had several meetings with the chairman of the milk marketing board, at the last of which I was informed that this building was now being used to a greater extent. He and the board hoped they could find a way to keep this facility open. The board plans to meet with the farmers, the cheese producers and the business people of that area. The last assurance I had was that it would continue operating as it is now for at least two years.

Mr. Speaker: The time for oral questions has expired.

MOTION

DEPUTY SPEAKER AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Hon Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Nixon, that the member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz), be appointed Deputy Speaker for this parliament and that the member for York Centre (Mr. Cousens) be appointed Deputy Chairman of committees of the whole House for this session.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

TORONTO AREA TRANSIT OPERATING AUTHORITY AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Wells, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Snow, moved first reading of Bill 2, An Act to amend the Toronto Area Transit Operating Authority Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, the bill that is being introduced is exactly similar to one that was introduced in the last session of the last parliament concerning changes to TATOA. It was fully explained at that time.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING CONTROL ACT

Mr. Foulds moved first reading of Bill 3, An Act respecting Advertising by Government Organizations.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Foulds: The purpose of this bill is to control the type of advertising placed by the government of Ontario in broadcasting and print media.

The bill prohibits the placement of advertisements by the government of Ontario that have the effect of promoting, directly or indirectly, the political party to which the members of the executive council belong. The bill authorizes the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses to receive and inquire into complaints concerning government advertising. If the commission determines that a government advertisement does, directly or indirectly, promote the political party to which the members of the executive council belong, the government of Ontario must immediately withdraw the advertisement from further use.

ELECTION FINANCES REFORM AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Foulds moved first reading of Bill 4, An Act to amend the Election Finances Reform Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Foulds: The purpose of this bill is to prohibit advertising by the government of Ontario during a provincial election campaign. The bill contains exemptions from the general prohibition for advertising related to the administration of the election itself and advertising required for emergency purposes. The purpose of both bills is to prevent the abuse that we saw during the last year leading up to the previous election.

4 p.m.

CONSUMER PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Newman moved first reading of Bill 5, An Act to amend the Consumer Protection Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Newman: Mr. Speaker, this bill requires that every product that is marked with the universal product code offered for sale by a retailer must also be clearly marked with its individual purchase price.

MOTION TO SUSPEND NORMAL BUSINESS

Mr. Riddell: Prior to the orders of the day, Mr. Speaker, and pursuant to standing order 34, I move that the ordinary business of the House be set aside to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the crisis facing the farmers of Ontario because of increasing interest rates that are forcing many farmers to lose their businesses and pushing them into bankruptcy with no suitable relief from this government.

Mr. Speaker: The notice of motion was received in time and complies with the standing order. I will listen to the honourable member for up to five minutes as to why he thinks the ordinary business of this House should be set aside.

Mr. Riddell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Having spent most of my life working in and for the agricultural industry in Ontario, I do not recall a time such as the one we are now going through when so many farmers have gone into bankruptcy, and many more have been forced to sell their farms before they lose all their equity in the business. If this is not checked it will be a sad day, not only for the agricultural industry in this province, but for the consumers of this country.

There is no question we have reached the crossroads of a crisis for the farmers of Ontario. Increasing interest rates are forcing many farmers to lose their businesses and pushing them into bankruptcy because there is no suitable relief from this government.

Although my remarks will focus mainly on the crisis facing Ontario farmers, I do not want to diminish in any way the same crisis that is facing many of our small businesses throughout Ontario. Farming is just one sector of the small business community, and the major causes of the current financial crisis faced by Ontario agriculture hold true for many small businesses as well.

The farmers of Ontario face an uncertain future. If the Minister of Agriculture and Food for Ontario had taken the pulse of the farming community he would know that many farmers, 124 last year alone in Ontario, have met their occupational demise, and that many more farmers have been struggling for survival. Farmers are being forced out of a farming life that has been a tradition of their families for many generations. A lethal combination of high interest rates and unstable meat prices means they must sell their land and their livestock in order to meet their debts.

Last year, farm bankruptcies increased 91 per cent in Ontario over the previous year, and for the first three months of this year, farm bankruptcies increased 77 per cent over the same period last year.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture estimates that for every farm bankruptcy that is recorded in Ontario there are at least 10 other farmers who decide to get off the land while they still have some equity left in the business.

I am sure the Minister of Agriculture and Food understands that high interest rates take a particular toll of agricultural enterprise, since farming in the 1980s requires infusion of an immense amount of capital in order to remain competitive. The cost of production has soared in the past 10 years and, conversely, the average farm income has declined as steadily as farm costs have increased.

Agriculture Canada estimates that farm income in this province in 1980 dropped by some 23 per cent, and there is not expected to be much change in the situation in 1981. Clearly, the level of government assistance offered in this province is simply not enough to prevent many farmers from being caught in the farm cost/income squeeze.

As farmers leave the land in frustration, or are forced off by bankruptcy, all too often that land is sold either to foreign investors, who have no intentions within the foreseeable future of coming to this country to farm the land, or to developers who will seek other ways of making a profit off that land other than by producing food. This would have a deleterious effect on the entire provincial economy, considering that the farm community not only provides us with food for domestic consumption and export but also provides jobs.

If the agricultural activity is allowed to decline further, society will have to bear an increasing load of unemployment as well as the cost of importing more and more of the food which we will not be able to produce domestically. This, of course, means much higher food prices to the consumer.

It is imperative that this government introduce an immediate emergency interest program to prevent further farm bankruptcies, foreclosures and the exercise of the power of sale by creditors. This crisis can be prevented. I don't want to hear the Minister of Agriculture and Food simply say that it is a federal responsibility, for he knows that other provinces have put into place an extensive and well-used set of low-interest programs for their farmers.

If this minister continues to renege on his responsibility, then I will have no other choice, as the agricultural critic for the Liberal caucus, to join the many farmers and the organizations representing the farmers in calling for his resignation.

The farming industry in Ontario needs immediate assistance. There was never a time when there was a greater need for a Minister of Agriculture and Food who was prepared to make an immediate solid commitment to the agricultural industry of this province. If the Minister of Agriculture and Food is bereft of ideas for an immediate relief program for the farmers—

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. Riddell: —then my colleagues and I have several proposals we would like to make. For this reason, I have called for an emergency debate. Without question, time is the essence for the farmers in Ontario.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, since the question before us is whether we should have an emergency debate or not, I want to say that the NDP believes that this is a matter of such urgent importance that we need a debate today and we need action announced by the government now in order to ensure that farmers can keep their farms and in order to ensure that the agricultural industry of this province does not go down the drain because of neglect from this government with its new majority.

For years agriculture in Ontario has been teetering on the brink in the absence of a comprehensive farm policy from the provincial government. While year after year the imports of farm products to the province rose to the level of $1.5 billion, this government did nothing. While three million acres of farm land went out of farming, this government did nothing. While 1,300 food processing plants went out of operation in the last 20 years, this government did nothing. Now with the final blow, beginning a year ago, we have had the escalation of interest rates to the point where farmers are finding themselves financially unable to stay in operation under any circumstance at all.

Last year the government came up with a short-term program. They said it was a temporary affair, but now we find interest rates are back to last year's level and this government says that it intends to do nothing. That's why we need to debate this issue and that's why we need to try to seek action from the government now.

Last year farm bankruptcies were up by 91 per cent over 1979 when other bankruptcies were up by only 18 per cent. That measures

what the farm community has been suffering. For many farmers it is a matter of $20,000 or more per year in terms of interest costs. For the farm community as a whole it is a matter now of an interest bill which is amounting to $800 million or more a year and that ultimately has got to be passed on to food consumers. The Ontario Federation of Agriculture estimates that foreclosures would be 10 times as high in this province if it weren't for the fact that farmers are anticipating foreclosures by selling out before they are forced to the wall.

Last year there was some response, but when one got down to it the government advanced only $5 million out of the $25 million that was promised in interest rate relief. They failed to come up with any other kind of comprehensive policy to put farming on its feet. The throne speech we had two days ago failed to propose measures to put farming on its feet. By God, it is about time we had some action right now and if this minister can't do it, then it is about time that the Premier found someone in the government who can do the job as far as farmers in the province are concerned.

4:10 p.m.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture has traditionally been close to the government. When the federation's executive comes along and calls for the resignation of the minister, that is very serious indeed.

I would ask that the government take this request for an emergency debate and our request for action very seriously indeed, because they cannot allow the bankruptcies to continue. They cannot allow the foreclosures to continue. They cannot allow an industry such as agriculture, which is so vital to our province, to continue to be pushed to the wall by rising interest rates. They cannot leave it up to the federal government only. We need short-term relief, we need long-term policies, and we need that action now.

I know there will be an argument from the government side through you, Mr. Speaker, to say that next week it will be possible to talk about farm policy in the throne debate, but that is too late. That will be mixed in with concerns about the automobile industry, about housing, about rent, about other matters that are also of urgent concern.

The problem of our farmers needs action now. We want to know if the government has any proposals to put forward apart from the throne speech. The way to do it is to use the vehicle, which has been used traditionally in this Legislature, of an emergency debate.

This is an urgent problem. It demands action now and, quite simply, the government has two choices in making its advice to you, Mr. Speaker. They can either say they do not care about farmers in the province, or they can support the official opposition and the New Democrats in having an emergency debate that will put the focus on farm problems and that I believe should come up with some long-term and short-term answers for our farmers in Ontario now.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, there certainly is a problem in the livestock industry. It is not confined to interest rates. Part of the problem is farm prices. About two years ago hogs were $76 per hundredweight. A year ago the price fell to $46 per hundredweight. It is now about $61 per hundredweight, a reduction of 25 per cent in two years.

For beef, the situation is no better. A large part of the beef problem is because of the United States' influence. In February I wrote to the federal Minister of Agriculture and said: "I do not have to outline the depressing effect which live cattle imports are having on cattle prices in Ontario and in all of Canada. Some form of import protection is urgently required. I would strongly urge you to employ the methods at your disposal to alleviate the serious situation in the meat industry."

The minister replied that he thought the situation was temporary and the long-term gains were really not worth the short-term pain. It is not a question of low prices. Input costs are up. In fact, if livestock producers are going to keep up with inflation, the price should be up by 25 per cent instead of down by that much.

As members can see, interest rates are not the whole problem. While they have moved up and down quite a bit this past year, they are presently about the same rate they were a year ago. They are a problem, however.

I would like to point out the interest rates are established at the federal level, not at the provincial level. I want to repeat that they are established by the federal government, not the provincial government. I want to emphasize that.

For several years it has been the policy of the federal governments of both Canada and the United States to fight inflation with high interest rates. This policy was reconfirmed only last month by the Bank of Canada in its annual report. Bank officials defended high interest rates as a means of supporting the dollar. Even the Farm Credit Corporation rate has gone up 30 per cent in two years. There is not enough

money in the program to meet farm borrowing needs. That is another government of Canada policy.

I would suggest that the proper arena, Mr. Speaker—and I want you to listen this—for such a debate on the interest rates is the House of Commons, not the provincial Legislature. Yesterday Charles Mayer, of the federal riding of Portage-Marquette—

Mr. Smith: What do we need you for at all then?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Members opposite are really not interested or they would listen. They really don't care. Shame on the whole bunch of them over there. They should really want to hear this.

Mr. Riddell: We are tired of the minister passing the buck. That is the reason.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: They are a little bit of a disgrace to the farm community. Yesterday Charles Mayer, of the federal riding of Portage-Marquette, put a motion before the Commons standing committee on finance. I would like to quote that motion. He said:

"I therefore move that this House immediately order its standing committee on finance, trade and economic development affairs to undertake an immediate review of the interest rate policy of this government and the Bank of Canada and for this purpose the governor of the bank and the Minister of Finance appear before it to explain their action."

Late in March Dr. Gary Gurbin, of the federal riding of Bruce-Grey, placed the motion before the Commons agriculture committee to examine interest rates and their effects on the farming community. Both of these motions were rejected by the federal Liberal government.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: It seems the federal and the provincial Liberals have taken opposite positions on this matter. Since interest rates are a federal matter, I have raised the issue with Mr. Whelan. Last Tuesday I requested him to convene a meeting of the country's agriculture ministers to discuss—

Mr. Speaker: The minister's time has expired.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, I wish to indicate that the government, while genuinely concerned about the high interest rates, does not believe that an emergency debate on this problem will serve any purpose, however serious the criteria for an emergency debate. I would therefore ask that you rule that this debate not proceed.

Mr. Speaker: I have listened carefully and with great interest to the comments of members of all three parties. Quite frankly, I recognize it as a serious problem and I don't diminish it in any way.

However, it is a problem which affects a very large segment of our society, not just the agricultural community. I am of the opinion that it would be more adequately and perhaps even better addressed during the debate on the speech from the throne when all the members have more adequate time to prepare themselves more fully.

Mr. Riddell: Deep in my heart I have reservations about challenging the ruling of a new Speaker, but I must tell you, sir, that every space in my heart is taken up with the plight of the farmers in this province, and therefore I have no room left in my heart for you and I must challenge your ruling.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the Speaker's ruling be upheld?

5 p.m.

The House divided on the Speaker's ruling, which was upheld on the following vote:

Ayes

Andrewes, Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Bennett, Bernier, Birch, Brandt, Cousens, Cureatz, Davis, Dean, Eaton, Elgie, Eves, Fish, Gillies, Gordon, Gregory, Grossman, Harris, Havrot, Henderson, Hennessy, Hodgson, Johnson, J. J., Jones, Kolyn, Lane,

MacQuarrie, McCaffrey, McCague, McLean, McNeil, Miller, F. S., Mitchell, Norton, Piche, Pollock, Pope, Ramsay, Robinson, Rotenberg, Runciman, Scrivener, Sheppard Snow, Stephenson, B., Sterling, Stevenson, R.

Taylor, J. A., Timbrell, Treleaven, Villeneuve, Walker, Watson, Welch, Wells, Williams, Wiseman, Yakabuski.

Nays

Boudria, Bradley, Breaugh, Cassidy, Charlton, Conway, Cooke, Copps, Cunningham, Di Santo, Eakins, Edighoffer, Elston, Epp, Foulds, Grande, Johnston, R. F., Kerrio, MacDonald, Mackenzie, Mancini, Martel, McClellan, McKessock, Miller, G.I.,

Newman, Nixon, O'Neil, Peterson, Philip, Reid, T.P., Riddell, Roy, Ruprecht, Ruston, Samis, Sargent, Smith, Spensieri, Swart, Van Horne, Wildman, Worton, Wrye.

Ayes 62; nays 44.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

Consideration of the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Gillies moved that a humble address be presented to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To the Honourable John B. Aird, OC, QC, BA, LLD, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario:

May it please Your Honour, we, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has addressed to us.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Speaker, it is an honour and a privilege for me to move this speech from the throne marking the first session of the thirty-second Parliament of Ontario.

As a new member of this Legislature I am particularly honoured to be able to express, I am sure on behalf of all members of this House, our thanks to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor for the vigour and dignity he has invested in his office in the past months. I know my constituents are looking forward to welcoming His Honour to the Brantford area in June when he is coming to officially open the new Kiwanis children's camp at Apps Mill, a project of which I had the pleasure of being chairman. It is in the riding of Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, I might add.

Members may be interested to know that this new camp is located only a few hundred yards from the home of the late Lieutenant Governor W. Ross Macdonald. Mr. Macdonald was Brantford's most distinguished and beloved citizen. I spent several delightful afternoons as a teenager sitting in his study listening to him discuss the affairs of the day. His wit, his intelligence and charm left a lasting impression on me as a very model of a public servant. On the few occasions I have had the honour of meeting our new Lieutenant Governor I sensed the presence of many of the same outstanding qualities that I so admired years ago.

I should also at this time like to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on the assumption of your new responsibilities. I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Speaker and Mrs. Turner for about five or six years now and I am sure I speak for most members of this House in wishing you well during your tenure of office.

I did not sit in this House during the term of office of the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), but I am well aware of the esteem in which he was held by honourable members and of the judicious and firm control he held on the affairs of this Legislature. About four years ago when I was working in the Premier's office, I did have an office just across the floor on this floor of the Legislature and there were occasions when the member for Lake Nipigon was disciplining members of this House. On occasions like that we did not really need the PA system that was being piped into the office to hear what was going on. I would assure you, Mr. Speaker—and I am sure I speak for those of us in the back row here—that we will never give you that kind of trouble.

5:10 p.m.

I hardly need to remind members that we have just come through a provincial election campaign and that there are some 28 new members of the Legislature, most of them on this side of the House. In the days ahead we will be feeling our way through the maze of rules and regulations which govern the affairs of this chamber. I hope you will be patient with us, Mr. Speaker, for a few hours anyway until we get our sea legs.

If I might be permitted a few partisan comments, I would like to say how delighted I am at the outcome of the recent election. I am not only happy to be in this chamber myself, but I am also pleased that many other new Progressive Conservative members have joined the seasoned and competent team which the people of Ontario want to lead them into the next decade.

I recall hearing the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Smith) saying during the campaign—I see that he has left, but he is represented by some of those who aspired to replace him—that he did not think the people of Ontario would be like blind sheep tap-dancing their way to the polls.

The voters of Ontario were certainly not blind. They quite clearly saw the the alternatives they had to choose from for the future. The voters were not like sheep. They examined the issues and the party platforms in a judicious, reasoning fashion and they made an intelligent decision based on the government's record of solid achievement. If the voters danced, it was with anticipation at the prospect of a renewed and strengthened Progressive Conservative government under the leadership of our own illustrious Premier (Mr. Davis), who is welcome in Brantford at any time for any occasion.

With reference to the fortunes of the third party, let it suffice to say that a number of us are sitting in this House at the expense of New

Democratic MPPs. There are a number of reasons for this, but I feel very strongly that the greatest problem for our colleagues on that side of the House is that the people of Ontario have rejected and will continue to reject the economic proposals of pure socialism.

The waste and inefficiency engendered by government-controlled economies can be demonstrated throughout the world. While I believe strongly in a compassionate government, a government that responds positively to the needs of all its people regardless of their circumstances, I do not believe that we want or need the kind of economic stranglehold that existed in Jamaica or Sweden, where socialist governments killed the motivation to achieve and excessive taxation acted as a disincentive to success.

If I might pose an example that is very near and dear to me, I would remind the House of the agreement reached last year between the governments of Canada and Ontario and Massey-Ferguson. The two governments agreed to guarantee the capital risk of new equity investment in Massey-Ferguson to a limit of $200 million, of which $75 million was the provincial share. The government guarantees will enable the company to complete its refinancing package, totalling in excess of $700 million.

The package was a good deal for Massey-Ferguson and it was a good deal for the taxpayers of this province for a number of reasons. First, the refinancing did not require the massive outlay of public funds. Rather, the guarantees will allow the issuing of 20 million nonconvertible preferred shares subject to mandatory redemption at the end of 10 years. The governments of Canada and Ontario agreed that if any dividends were missed, or if the shares were not redeemed at the end of the 10-year period, they would purchase the shares at the original share price.

The bottom line is that the governments are providing a framework within which the company can continue to operate in the private sector of the economy. If Massey-Ferguson continues to operate and regain a profitable position in the market, the loan guarantees will not have cost the taxpayers a penny. Massey still has its obligations to its creditors, but I am very optimistic, in view of Massey's market share actually increasing in the last year, that it will continue to operate and continue to be an asset to my community, to the province and the people of Ontario.

In the meantime the workers in my riding of Brantford are steadily going back to work now and the economic devastation we experienced in my community is starting to be repaired. You may not be aware, Mr. Speaker, that 25 per cent of the work force in my riding is employed in the farm machinery industry. The working people of Brantford were well aware of this government's constructive efforts in this area when they went to the polls on March 19. The commitment by the Progressive Conservative government was one that helped to provide the economic climate needed to strengthen one sector of our economy without having to absorb it into the public sector.

Our commitment was in marked contrast to the stand taken by my predecessor as the member for Brantford, who said that an NDP government would buy Massey-Ferguson. I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, to consider a more preposterous proposition than the nationalization of a company that had close to $2 billion in liabilities, a company that employed but 12 per cent of its work force in Canada, a nationalization which would merely serve to bring all of the company's private obligations into the public sector so that the taxpayers of Ontario and Canada would be bailing out international banks and bringing the financial obligations of the company into public indebtedness.

It was that sort of thinking that the people rejected on March 19, and it strikes at the very core of the philosophy of the third party. The answers to the problem of Massey-Ferguson were provided on this side of the House and the citizens of Brantford certainly recognized that.

If I might diverge for just a moment, I would like to point out that the remaining 75 per cent of Brantford's work force is engaged in a great diversity of activities. My community has long been a centre of invention and innovation. Members of this House are probably aware that Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone at his summer home just outside of Brantford and that the first long distance phone call was made from Brantford to Paris, Ontario.

Mr. Nixon: In Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

Mr. Gillies: In Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It was the member's father who took the first call.

Mr. Gillies: Many of Graham Bell's later inventions were designed to improve the lot of handicapped people. I feel it particularly appropriate that my city is also home to the W. Ross Macdonald School, formerly known as the Ontario School for the Blind. Students come from all over Canada and from some other countries to the school in Brantford for what is

considered to be the most advanced education available for visually impaired young people anywhere in the world. Our Ministry of Education can be very proud of that facility, and I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, the staff of that school are among the most accomplished and dedicated educators I have encountered anywhere.

The city of Brantford can boast of many other accomplishments: the invention of the electron microscope and the building of the first Pullman railway car. Our community has also produced great men of letters: Emily Pauline Johnson, the noted Indian poetess; the great Victorian novelist, Thomas B. Costain; and Sarah Jeannette Duncan. The centre of Canada's farm machinery industry since before Confederation, the Brantford area is steeped in history.

Brantford today is a city of marked contrasts. We have, I am led to understand, the youngest MPP in the province. But we also have, in 89-year-old Alderman Charles Ward, the oldest elected official in Canada. I would really like some of my colleagues in this House to have an opportunity to meet Alderman Ward. He is a man of great wit and tremendous charm and, I might add, is a thoroughly shrewd politician. I might add that he has been on Brantford city council since before I was born, and he never hesitates to remind me of that fact.

I think also that our image is one of contrasts. Publicity in recent years has centred on the problems that Brantford has had economically. But I can assure members that most of our diverse industries are thriving. With the help of the Ontario Development Corporation, a number of foreign-owned companies have been purchased by local people and are now thriving under local Canadian ownership. With an upturn in the farm machinery market, my city will in the very near future overcome the unemployment problem that has plagued it in the last two years.

5:20 p.m.

Quite frankly, the people of Brantford elected me because they wanted action, and I do not intend to disappoint them. It is very important to my community that Highway 403 be completed westward from Brantford towards Woodstock and eastwards from Brantford to Ancaster. I will be urging the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) to press ahead with this project as soon as possible, with construction starting this year if at all possible.

I will also be asking the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Miss Stephenson) to look seriously at some expansion and improvement of the facilities at the Braneida campus of Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology. It would seem consistent with the aims of our government's BILD program that we must be upgrading our skills-related education facilities in our industrial centres. If my riding is to attract new high-technology development, it will need a pool of highly trained workers equipped with the most modern technological know-how.

I am also very pleased that this government is co-operating with the city of Brantford and with Campeau Corporation in the revitalization of our downtown core. Our Minister of Housing (Mr. Bennett) has pledged a low-interest loan of over $6 million towards this project. I have had a long interest in this project and have lobbied for it as a private citizen. I am very proud indeed that due to an extraordinary amount of work by our municipal government this downtown project will be well under way during my first term in this Legislature.

Brantford also has two very fine art galleries and a stable of excellent local artists. We have a tremendous local performing troupe known as Theatre Brantford and we are blessed with one of the finest symphony orchestras in all Ontario.

As the Stanley Cup draws near, I would certainly be remiss if I did not remind members that Brantford is the home of the world's greatest hockey player, Wayne Gretzky.

Mr. Nixon: He lives in Brant-Oxford-Norfolk though.

Mr. Gillies: I was just getting to that. Quite apart from his being a superlative athlete, Wayne is a very fine fellow and makes a great contribution to his community.

Mr. Peterson: And what happened? He went out west. We told you so.

Mr. Gillies: I have to confess to you, Mr. Speaker, that Wayne Gretzky lives in that suburb of Brantford which is actually across the boundary in Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, but I am very sure that if he lived in the riding of Brantford, he would vote for me.

Sound economic planning was evident in our party's BILD program and in the throne speech which His Honour delivered on Tuesday. We have developed a program that boldly confronts the problems of a modern industrialized society through new initiatives in job creation, a more aggressive export policy and increased productivity through greater emphasis on the research and development of new technologies.

In a sense, this whole province is standing at a

crossroads. The direction we take throughout the rest of this decade will have profound implications on our province's economic future and, by extension, on the economic future of Canada. I am confident, however, that our decision to embrace the risks and rewards of high-technology development is the correct one.

Our economic strategy for the 1980s obviously meets with the approval of the majority of the people of Ontario. We believe that by supporting it so wholeheartedly on March 19 the people of Ontario have given us a clear mandate to move ahead with an explicit program for economic growth and development so that indeed the promise of Ontario can be kept. The BILD program is an ambitious undertaking. There is no doubt it is an essential one. The world is moving into a new technological era, and our government must provide the incentive for business and industry to pursue aggressive research and development programs and to keep in the forefront so that not only Ontario, but Canada, can compete more effectively in an increasingly competitive world.

There is no way our government could have afforded to launch the massive $1.5-billion economic development strategy if its fiscal performance over the last five years had not been so exemplary. Our economic record is sound, despite what members opposite might have to say. In these difficult times of high inflation we have succeeded in making slow but steady progress in all economic areas.

While other jurisdictions have been consistently increasing their budgets and expanding their bureaucracies, we in Ontario have been setting an example by practising restraint, which is not an easy accomplishment in this inflation-ridden period. While Ottawa, for example, increased its civil service complement by 20,000 in the last five years, Ontario has actually reduced the size of its civil service by some 4,500 in the same period. Our successful restraint program has proved that retrenchment can and does work if legislators are serious about reducing the burden of government spending.

The battle of inflation, unfortunately, does require federal co-operation if a successful attack is to be mounted. That co-operation has not been forthcoming. We hope, though, that the Prime Minister's acceptance of the Premier's invitation to hold a federal-provincial conference on this important matter in the near future will set the stage for some long overdue action on the national scale.

Meanwhile, Ontarians should be proud to learn that we have the lowest rate of inflation of any of Canada's 10 provinces. In fact, by reducing our deficit, holding the line on taxes and reducing our public service, Ontario has been an anti-inflationary force almost alone among Canadian governments. Wherever possible, our government has acted responsibly to keep the inflationary forces at bay. There is no question that rising oil prices and escalating interest rates are the two most pervasive inflationary forces facing us today. The constantly rising price of oil not only creates some home heating and transportation costs, but it affects everything we buy.

As members know, our Premier has led the fight against letting oil prices be dictated by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries cartel, thereby protecting Ontario's manufacturing industries and consumers from even higher costs. We believe that Canadian crude oil prices should be set in Canada by Canadians with any increases tied directly to achieving self-sufficiency and closely related to the cost of producing the oil. In fact, our provincial energy policy is geared to reducing Ontario's demand for crude oil to a significant degree. The target date is early in the 1990s.

An integral part of developing alternate energy sources is tapping the full potential of Ontario's electrical capability. Under the BILD program the importance of conservation and electrical power to Ontario's energy and economic future is stressed through a number of initiatives which encourage greater use of this cheaper energy form. Home owners, for example, will be able to take advantage of government assistance in converting their home-heating systems to electricity under the new residential electrical services program to be introduced early in this session.

While escalating interest rates are primarily outside our government's control, being a federal responsibility, we have recently taken steps to reduce the burden of high interest costs for an important sector of our community. Soaring mortage interest rates are probably the greatest disincentive for those wishing to build rental accommodation. The new Ontario rental construction loan program, announced at the end of January, provides the private market rental industry with interest-free loans of $4,200 per unit to encourage the construction of affordable rental accommodation.

The alacrity with which this industry has responded to the program prompted the Pre-

mier to announce a 50 per cent increase in funding during the campaign. Where we had originally hoped that the program would yield 10,000 new rental units this year, we are now confident that 15,000 units will result. Since applications for close to 10,000 of the units have already been filed within a month of the program's announcement, we have every reason to be optimistic that the new target will be met.

Measures such as this and the residential electrical services program are some of the means at our disposal, in the face of Ottawa's inaction, to shield Ontarians from the ravages of inflation. Judging by the response to the rental construction loan program, such actions are both appreciated and obviously much needed. But a competitive efficient economic base is still the best hedge against inflation.

Strengthening and improving Ontario's economic base is a vital objective of the BILD program, one which we believe is a farsighted and effective response to the challenge of reducing inflation.

5:30 p.m.

Turning now to other aspects of our economic record, let us look for a moment at the question of job creation. Recently released Statistics Canada figures confirm the strength of Ontario's job creation record. There were 4,067,000 Ontarians at work in March of this year compared to 3,972,000 in March of last year. This represents an increase in the work force of 95,000 in just one year. Our seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in this province of 6.6 per cent for March continues to fall below the national trends.

Our job creation picture has yet to reflect the impact of BILD initiatives. Once jobs created through BILD-related programs begin to materialize, we anticipate a substantial adjustment in our employment figures. Our government's record in creating jobs in the past provides a solid base on which new jobs can be built in the future. Initiatives outlined in the speech from the throne will enable us to continue building on our strengths as we look ahead to even brighter prospects.

Manufacturing has traditionally been the mainstay of our province's economy, and we intend to continue working in a creative partnership with our entrepreneurs and risk takers in the private sector through our new economic development program. The facts demonstrate extensively that our manufacturing and industrial base is tough, resilient and here to stay. Our record in manufacturing is an impressive one. Ontario leads its competitors throughout the industrial world in employment growth in manufacturing. Last year our manufacturers invested $5 billion in the future of our province. This was well over half of all manufacturing investment in Canada. Between 1975 and 1979, the so-called years of deindustrialization, Ontario created over two thirds of the manufacturing jobs in this country.

Despite serious employment declines in the automobile manufacturing sector last year, our economy generally resisted the recessionary trends operating throughout North America because 75,000 new jobs were created in Ontario in other sectors of the economy.

As we move towards greater involvement in high technology, we would do well to review our record in this area because it highlights the tremendous potential for this kind of development here in Ontario. Over half of all Canadian research and development is performed in Ontario. On a per capita basis this expenditure doubles the average of the other provinces. Of the 1,000 Canadian-controlled advanced technology companies estimated to be in Canada, some 70 per cent are located right here in Ontario. Furthermore, a recent Toronto Stock Exchange study of 10 representative high technology companies, all of which were formed in the 1970s, discovered that sales are growing at almost 60 per cent each year; over 50 per cent of output is exported; skilled employment is growing at a rate of 38 per cent each year; research and development spending averages 14 per cent of sales; and productivity growth is 32 per cent every year.

This is a time of critical choice, not only for our province but for our country. The directions we take now will have far-reaching repercussions for the future. The course we have chosen to take in the economic area through our BILD program is the result of careful planning and consideration. We believe that our economic development strategy is capable of addressing our economic shortcomings and stimulating our economic growth rate, so that Ontario remains the centrepiece of the Canadian economic union.

I am very pleased that His Honour spoke on Tuesday of the need to expand the business and industry training initiatives of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, with specific reference to increased funding for technological equipment in our community colleges. This commitment will work hand in hand with our BILD commitment to ensure greatly increased

training efforts by private industry. Enrolment is growing steadily in our colleges of applied arts and technology, and the students in those colleges must have, as one of their options upon graduation, that of apprenticeship training in industry on a larger scale than we now offer.

The government also proposes to strengthen the training initiatives available to small and medium-size businesses through encouraging the development of co-operative training efforts whereby a number of firms could pool their training activities, making greater use of trained staff and training facilities.

This government has illustrated how we, in concert with business, labour, community groups and educators, can best meet the challenges of the coming years.

The Premier of Ontario placed before the Prime Minister last March a proposal for a first ministers' conference on inflation. Despite pressures to delay such a meeting until late in the summer, our Premier responded again by emphasizing the need for an earlier meeting of first ministers. This government, despite our concern over constitutional and energy matters, will not allow the problem of inflation to be moved to the back burner. There is no doubt in my mind that the only sure route to the lowering of interest rates is through a strengthening of the Canadian dollar. The federal government has to take steps to restore international confidence in the Canadian economy.

I do not think it an overstatement to say that the lack of a federal policy for economic development has made our nation a laughing stock in the international community. People I have met from other countries cannot understand how a nation with such boundless resources and with a healthy, educated population can spend so much time fighting and squabbling over such a wide spectrum of issues.

I would like to add one small voice to the national debate by simply stating that I think it is time that the governments and people of Canada started spending less time fighting and more time working. It is time we stopped passing more and more regulations to strangle our small businesses and started tearing up some of those regulations. It is time we stopped loading more and more conditions on to the ownership of private property and looked anew at the rights of the small property owner. It is time that we examined seriously the desire of thousands of handicapped people in Ontario whose only wish is to take up a productive role in society. This Legislature can provide them with the framework within which this can be accomplished.

It is time for us to look at the methods available in our system of taxation to encourage and strengthen the volunteer sector in our communities. There are any number of local projects and programs which could be more economically and efficiently implemented by the the volunteer sector than by governmental agencies.

These are a few of the reasons I ran for this Legislature, a few of the areas in which I feel we need to improve. But these and other initiatives will not go far towards helping our people realize their aspirations unless we tackle the overall menace of inflation. This is why a federal-provincial conference is so very important. There must be co-operation among all provinces and the federal government to ensure that our fiscal policies are working together harmoniously. Let me be clear on this point. What is the value in Ontario keeping a firm hand on government spending when other governments spend with abandon? A meeting in Ottawa could mark the beginning of a plan to counter inflation on a national scale, and the government of Ontario will be there, pushing for control over government spending at all levels.

We must also question the effect of a tight money policy on our home owners, small businessmen and our farming community as they struggle already with high interest rates. As a province, we have to question the practicality of the federal government's further extending its present monetary policy.

Whatever the intention of Mr. MacEachen's October budget, the end product will not be a change in the inflationary picture. The federal government is going to have to consider severe measures if it is serious about ending the inflationary spiral. It is time for the government of Canada to set an example for all of us as individuals, for other levels of government and indeed for the international community.

There is little doubt that energy is a major villain in the war against inflation. We introduced in the fall of 1980 programs to help business and industry begin the changeover from traditional to alternative energy supplies. Proposals outlined by this government to aid home owners in energy conservation and off-oil conversion will benefit every Ontario resident.

5:40 p.m.

There is little doubt that increased productivity in Canadian industry will also help us win over inflation. An integral part of higher rates of productivity is the development and use of

newer technology. To this end R and D must and will play a prominent role in our economic development.

Increased productivity in Canadian firms will help us compete in both domestic and international markets. Let me be clear: increased productivity does not mean simply producing more; it means producing more without substantially increasing costs.

This is where technology and Canadian know-how can help every Ontarian. The Ontario Research Foundation will lead the way in aiding high-technology manufacturing. The IDEA Corporation will co-ordinate and fund research centres whose purpose is to bring new technology to industry. The economic base of this province rests on our manufacturing sector and we intend to see that it develops and increases its productivity in the immediate future.

The initiatives of this government will lead to energy costs which are not dictated by foreign suppliers. Our program will spur the development of new technology and new markets. With this will come a new, skilled work force and young, dynamic workers able to help maximize Ontario's potential.

Yet we cannot afford to look too far down the road for an inflationary cure. There are people in our midst, individuals and families on fixed incomes, who feel the effects of inflation more dramatically than others. The welfare of our pensioners cannot and will not be neglected. This government still has to consider all the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Status of Pensions in Ontario. An equitable means must and will be found to protect our senior community and allow them to enjoy the quality of life we have come to take for granted. After all, these senior people built our province and we have an obligation towards them.

My riding is a purely urban one, but it is uniquely dependent on the strength of the agricultural economy because of the farm machinery industry centred in Brantford.

Ontario farmers are now producing annually over $4 billion worth of agricultural products. Ontario is the largest food producer in one of the greatest food-producing nations in the world. We furnish more beef for market than any other province in Canada. We are also the largest producer of fluid milk, poultry and eggs and the second largest producer of hogs. We are also dominant in fruit and vegetable growing. In short, we process about 60 per cent of the food in this country.

Recognizing the importance of the farm industry to this province, over the years we have tried to maintain a strong partnership between government and the farming community, a partnership which has produced policies and programs designed to help the farmers help themselves.

Our province leads in providing advisory services to farmers and has committed more resources to agricultural research than any other province in Canada. We have invested in an extraordinary range of projects from tile drainage to crop insurance. Overall, we have sought to develop an approach to agriculture that is premised on assisting farmers where we can, while not interfering in those activities that the enterprising farmer does best himself.

The Progressive Conservative government has promised the people of Ontario decisive action, not only to maintain but to expand our agriculture and food industry. The strength of the agricultural sector is integral to that of our overall economy. As such, it is fundamental to our plans for growth and prosperity in the 1980s.

The first aspect of this development is that one million acres of farm land in eastern and northern Ontario will be upgraded into high quality agricultural land. The large capital input required for this effort will increase greatly the productive capacity of our total agricultural sector and the capacity of our industry to permit the expansion of high-value crops in areas where agricultural potential has not been fully realized.

Second, food products such as perishable fruits and vegetables currently have to be imported into Ontario in the off growing season, yet the effective marketing period for Ontario produce can be significantly extended by expanding the storage facilities for such perishable crops and thereby replacing these imports. This government has introduced a special capital incentive through BILD for the construction of new storage facilities and the replacement of old facilities. The development of new technology for the production, storage and processing of fruit and vegetables is essential for the long-term viability of the horticultural industry in Ontario.

Third, this government will support development areas of Ontario where food production can be expanded—in particular, the Cochrane clay belt region with its millions of acres of soil and its proximity to the Ontario Northland Railway.

Fourth, Canada's growing market for processed food and convenience food products offers great potential for expanding food processing facilities in Ontario.

Fifth, and finally, a special incentive program will be established to assist farmers in undertaking the production of products currently being imported.

This government plans to invest more than $400 million in the next five years in our resource centre including agriculture, forestry and mining.

A major step towards realizing our goal of agricultural self-sufficiency was outlined by the honourable Lieutenant Governor in his speech from the throne.

This government will introduce legislation to enable Ontario Hydro to sell industrial steam to the Ontario Energy Corporation. This is a major step towards realizing the full potential of the Bruce agripark, combining the estimated potential of 400 acres under glass at Bruce and 240 acres at Pickering. This would render Ontario capable of growing enough tomatoes to replace about 25 per cent of our present imports.

This government, in developing new greenhouse projects throughout Ontario, has not forgotten our existing greenhouse farmers. Research into the energy efficiency of various greenhouse designs is now under way and alternative heating systems using methane and hydrogen are currently being developed, as are various methods of insulation.

Working towards food self-sufficiency is integral to securing a strong and secure future for Ontario. Many of the programs outlined by the Lieutenant Governor in the throne speech on Tuesday addressed this goal directly. Through them, our agricultural community is assured the encouragement and incentive to develop.

My riding of Brantford is situated in the heart of one of Ontario's major agricultural districts. Many of my constituents depend on a strong and secure agricultural industry, which is one of the largest and most diversified of any in Canada.

Farmers too, Mr. Speaker, are going through a period of high inflation coupled with high interest rates. Ontario farmers are one of the groups hardest hit by this recent upsurge in interest rates. They are hurting from inflation and they are hurting from the high interest levels. I was very pleased on Tuesday to hear that this government will pay special attention to the impact of interest rates and other economic indicators on Ontario's agricultural sector.

The goals of this government to reduce food imports by at least one third and substantially raise farm incomes are most commendable. By listening to the views and suggestions of those in the agricultural sector and by working together to overcome short-term economic difficulties, I believe Ontario can obtain self-sufficiency in agriculture in the very near future and maintain prosperity for those who serve us all by producing our most vital resource, the very food we eat.

In his address on Tuesday the Lieutenant Governor described many of the steps this government is going to take to strengthen the economy of the province. While I have no doubt that these measures will go far in preparing Ontario to meet the challenges of the 1980s, we must remember too that our provincial economy is but a part of the much larger economy of Canada as a whole. The economic health of Ontario is closely linked to the health of the Canadian economy and the wellbeing of the economies of our nine sister provinces. National prosperity is the best guarantee for prosperity here in Ontario.

A few statistics will demonstrate the degree to which various parts of Canada depend on each other for markets, for goods and for services. Ontario is the largest customer for the manufacturing enterprises in other parts of the country. We purchase more than half of all the interprovincial shipments originating in the rest of Canada. In return, about one quarter of Ontario's manufactured goods, worth $13 billion, is sold in other parts of Canada.

This province sells twice as many manufactured goods to Atlantic Canada as it does to the European Economic Community, including Great Britain. In short, Canadians are all partners. The health of the Canadian market is vital to all of us and for this reason Ontarians applaud the burgeoning prosperity in the west and we applaud the exciting prospect of prosperity to come in the east. We can applaud, not only because our fellow Canadians are at long last diversifying their economies, but also because they know that in the long run they will see that Ontario benefits from this development as well.

5:50 p.m.

Encouraging as these signposts to the future are, we must also deal with a major, self-imposed, straitjacket on the national economy. I am referring, of course, to the barriers to interprovincial trade and the possibility of internal balkanization mentioned by His Honour in the throne speech. The harm done to the Canadian economy by these internal barriers to trade is of great concern to this government. Things have now reached the point where

Canada's ambassador to the European Economic Community has publicly stated that there are now fewer barriers to trade among the countries of Europe than there are among the provinces of Canada.

For example, seven provincial governments have adopted narrow, province-first, procurement policies. Newfoundland cannot sell electricity from Labrador to the US because Quebec is holding that province to an old marketing agreement. British Columbia applies a 10 per cent preference in favour of BC suppliers. Newfoundland gives Newfoundlanders-only preference on jobs associated with its offshore oil industry. Professionals and tradesmen are forced to pass tests and licensing procedures which hinder their movement from province to province.

We, in Ontario, are not blameless in this matter of provincial preference. Every province at one time or another has been guilty. The basic problem arises from the nature of Canadian federalism itself.

There are naturally competing regional economic interests in this country. Since each provincial government is responsible only to the people of its own province, these regional interests are protected by policy. It cannot and should not be the responsibility of any provincial government to arbitrate between competing regional interests. Instead, that is the job of the national government with a comprehensive national policy that serves the interests of all Canadians no matter in which province they live.

As in the nationwide fight against inflation, we need a national economic leadership program to ensure that Canada remains one united economy and does not become 10 fragmented ones. If the provinces cannot agree among themselves on how to minimize the practices that set one region against another, then the necessary action may have to be taken at the national level by the federal Parliament. Unfortunately, in recent years we have not seen such leadership from Ottawa on this front.

In the absence of any moves in this direction from the federal government, Ontario has made a number of proposals. This province has suggested that interprovincial nontariff barriers respecting goods, services, capital and people be prohibited much as they are prohibited in the European community. This would be backed by a national capacity to intervene should a government erect a barrier affecting interprovincial trade and labour movement.

These provisions ideally should be entrenched in a new Canadian constitution just as basic mobility rights will be entrenched in the proposed charter of rights and freedoms which is before the federal Parliament this very day. I might add that mobility rights were included in the charter largely at the insistence of the government of Ontario.

We are also taking positive action through the office of procurement policy. This office will work to ensure that public sector spending in Ontario gives purchasing preference to Canadian suppliers. I emphasize Canadian because this is not an Ontario-first policy, but one that I am sure will benefit suppliers all over Canada, thereby strengthening the Canadian common market.

The potential benefits arising from greater economic co-operation between the regions and provinces of Canada are enormous.

My colleague, the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Grossman) has published an important paper entitled, Interprovincial Economic Co-operation towards the Development of a Canadian Common Market. I would highly recommend this document to the members on both sides of the House. It is a gold mine of information regarding the current status of the Canadian market and the rich future which awaits us, if and when we co-operate. It delves into the great possibilities inherent in import replacement and procurement, in research development and energy-related projects, and suggests the structure for a proposed Canadian domestic marketing development agency.

This excellent address with which His Honour has favoured us outlines the first steps in the implementation of the BILD program, which is going to reshape Ontario. This program speaks to the youth of Ontario, to the potential and untapped talents of our students and to the resourcefulness and the adaptability of our working people. It speaks of new technologies, new sources of energy and new patterns in trade. The future I see through this program is exciting and practical, and it starts today.

During the election campaign, I spoke to many people who were impressed with the scope of the Progressive Conservative platform and who were pleased that, unlike those opposite, we were laying the groundwork for the future of this province rather than rehashing the battles of its past.

There are members opposite who would say that the Progressive Conservative government

is tired, old and has been in power too long. I would ask you to take a second and more objective look.

Contrast our team of ministers with that lackadaisical bunch on Parliament Hill. Look at the breadth and experience of our caucus members from all parts of Ontario. Particularly, I would suggest that you take a look at the back bench at the class of '81 because I think you are looking at the future of Ontario when you look along this bench.

Mr. Speaker, I am honoured indeed to move acceptance of this most excellent speech from the throne. I know that members on this side of the House eagerly anticipate the opportunity to implement this legislative program.

On motion by Ms. Fish, the debate was adjourned.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, pursuant to standing order 13, I would like to indicate to the members of the House the business for the rest of this week and next week.

Tomorrow morning, at the beginning of orders of the day, we will consider the motion on the Order Paper concerning committees, and then continue with the debate on the speech from the throne, at which time the speech by the seconder will be given.

On Monday, April 27, the House business will be the reply by the leader of the official opposition to the speech from the throne. I might also draw to members' attention that the private members' ballot is to be held at ll a.m. on Monday, April 27.

On Tuesday, April 28, in the afternoon, the business will be the reply by the leader of the New Democratic Party to the speech from the throne. Next Tuesday, we will begin our evening sessions and the members will then take part in the debate on the reply to the speech from the throne.

On Thursday, April 30, in the afternoon and evening, we will continue members' replies to the speech from the throne.

On Friday, May 1, we will also continue with members' replies to the speech from the throne.

The House adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

CONTENTS

Thursday, April 23, 1981

Speaker's entrance, comments by Mr. Speaker . . . 19

Davis, Hon. W. G., Premier:

Tribute to former Speaker, Mr. Smith, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Stokes, Mr. Speaker . . . 19

Statements by the ministry

Wells, Hon. T. L., Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs:
Committees . . . 23

McCague, Hon. G., Chairman, Management Board of Cabinet:
Special Warrants . . . 24

Walker, Hon. G., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Provincial Secretary for Justice:
Astra/Re-Mor . . . 24
Rent control . . . 26

Miller, Hon. F. S., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics:
Budget . . . 26

Point of order

Order of oral questions, Mr. Nixon . . . 26

Oral questions

Davis, Hon. W. G., Premier:
Rent control, Mr. Smith, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Philip . . . 27

Astra/Re-Mor, Mr. Smith, Mr. Swart, Mr. Kerrio . . . 28
Severance pay, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Smith, Mr. Mackenzie, Mr. Mancini . . . 30

Bennett, Hon. C., Minister of Housing:
Housing prices, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Smith, Mr. Peterson . . . 32

Henderson, Hon. L. C., Minister of Agriculture and Food, and Davis, Hon. W. G., Premier:
Interest rates, Mr. Riddell, Mr. MacDonald . . . 35
Entrenchment of language rights, Mr. Roy, Mr. Cassidy . . . 36
Belleville cheese exchange, Mr. Pollock . . . 38

Motion

Deputy Speaker and Deputy Chairman, Mr. Wells . . . 38

First readings

Toronto Area Transit Operating Authority Amendment Act, Bill 2, Mr. Snow . . . 38

Government Advertising Control Act, Bill 3, Mr. Foulds . . . 39

Election Finances Reform Amendment Act, Bill 4, Mr. Foulds . . . 39

Consumer Protection Amendment Act, Bill 5, Mr. Newman . . . 39

Motion to suspend normal business

Interest rates, Mr. Riddell, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Henderson; negatived . . . 39

Throne speech debate

Mr. Gillies 43

Business of the House, Mr. Wells 52

Adjournment 52

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Bennett, Hon. C. F.; Minister of Housing (Ottawa South PC)
Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
Davis, Hon. W. G.; Premier (Brampton PC)
Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)
Henderson, Hon. L. C.; Minister of Agriculture and Food (Lambton PC)
Hennessy, M. (Fort William PC)
Kerrio, V. G. (Niagara Falls L)
MacDonald, D. C. (York South NDP)
Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)
Mancini, R. (Essex South L)
Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
McCague, Hon. G. R.; Chairman, Management Board of Cabinet (Dufferin-Simcoe PC)
Miller, Hon. F. S.; Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics (Muskoka PC)
Newman, B. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
Peterson, D. R. (London Centre L)
Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)
Pollock, J. (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
Riddell, J. (Huron-Middlesex L)
Roy, A. J. (Ottawa East L)
Smith, S. L. (Hamilton West L)
Stokes, J. E. (Lake Nipigon NDP)
Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Turner, Hon. J. M.; Speaker (Peterborough PC)
Walker, Hon. G. W.; Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Provincial Secretary for Justice (London South PC)
Wells, Hon. T. L.; Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Scarborough North PC)

Ontario

No. 3

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



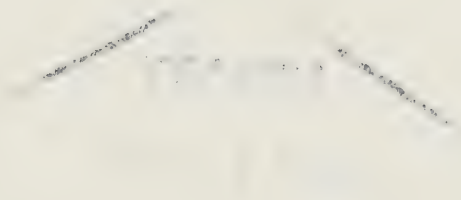
First Session, Thirty-Second Parliament
Friday, April 24, 1981

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.



Hansard subscription price is $15.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Central Purchasing Service, Print Procurement Section, Ministry of Government Services, 8th Floor, Ferguson Block, Parliament Buildings, Toronto M7A 1N3. Phone (416) 965-2238.

Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1981

The House met at 10:02 a.m.

Prayers.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

BUSINESS CORPORATIONS LEGISLATION

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, later today I will be introducing for first reading the new Business Corporations Act. My predecessor, the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea), introduced this bill during the last session of the House, and at that time he outlined the extensive and intensive effort that has gone into its preparation.

Over the past 17 months the draft legislation has been twice circulated for business, financial and legal comment. I am satisfied that the bill now meets the requirements that were set for it. Those requirements are that the new act provide increased rights for minority shareholders, that it be as uniform as possible with the Canada Business Corporations Act and the legislation of other provinces, and that it reflect the recommendations of the 1973 select committee on company law.

I believe we have achieved these aims. Perhaps it would have been possible to patch amendments to the existing act, but the determination was made fairly early, despite some criticism, that it would be preferable to rewrite the act than simply to add changes here and there. I believe the legal and philosophical cohesiveness of this bill has confirmed that decision.

There were quite a few groups and individuals who assisted us in the preparation of this act, many of whom were publicly thanked during the last session when the bill was first introduced. Without renaming all of these people, I would like to praise their efforts once more and thank them for the time and consideration they gave this bill and my ministry's staff.

I am vitally interested in investor protection in this province. I want everyone to get a fair shake in the marketplace. This bill has several provisions which will enhance that protection. For example, there is a section in the new bill which provides for an "oppression remedy" for the first time in Ontario companies law. What this means is that a complainant, who may be a current or former holder of a particular security, can bring an action against the company to redress harmful or burdensome transactions.

Not only will this section protect the rights of minority shareholders, but it will also allow creditors and directors to make a similar application to the court to rectify the oppressive transaction. Court action can also be initiated by the director and, in the case of a corporation offering shares to the public, by the Ontario Securities Commission.

Another provision that is new to Ontario provides for the expropriation of shares of minority shareholders of a public corporation where 90 per cent of the noninsiders accept a takeover bid or 90 per cent of the holders of a class of security accept an issuer bid. This provision is consistent with the recommendation of that select committee on company law.

A corollary of this provision is the proposed right of a "locked-in" shareholder of any of the remaining 10 per cent left after 90 per cent of the class of shares has been acquired by an affiliate of a corporation to force the purchase of his shares. Thus the corporation will make a market for the shareholder where no other market may exist.

In the past few years, in both Canada and the United States, an increasing number of public companies have been "going private." Basically, this means that the principals in a company buy up the majority of shares and require minority shareholders to liquidate their holdings. The Ontario Securities Commission does not believe that such transactions should be prohibited in the public interest, but the commission does believe the rights of minority shareholders should be protected under the Business Corporations Act. Such provisions will be a first in any common-law jurisdiction.

Another proposal is to eliminate par value shares which we believe are misleading to the unsophisticated investor. I should note that the Canada Business Corporations Act prohibits

par value shares and that by doing the same in Ontario we will be achieving another of our purposes in this bill, that of drawing our legislation closer to the federal statute.

Another change that will increase the amount of common ground between our act and the federal act is the provision that will allow shareholders to have material which opposes management's point of view circulated at the company's expense to shareholders prior to a general meeting. Appropriate safeguards have been built into this section to prevent abuse by exempting the corporation from the requirement in certain circumstances.

To protect directors or officers of a company who are sued in their corporate capacity, if they have acted in good faith and in the best interests of the corporation, we are proposing that the existing act be changed to permit the purchase of insurance for their benefit.

We are also proposing to plug a gap in the existing act to provide a remedy for the use of confidential information by insiders of a nonpublic corporation. What this means is that any person in a nonoffering corporation who used confidential information for his own benefit in a security transaction could be liable to a person who suffers a direct loss as a result of the transaction.

The proposed act contains 31 provisions that are new to Ontario companies law; I do not intend to outline them all, but I would like to mention just a few more of the act's highlights:

The day-to-day administration of the act is transferred from the minister and given to a director appointed by the minister.

Nonoffering or closely held corporations will be able to apply to the director for an exemption from an audit, and an exemption may be granted following a hearing.

Some lawyers expressed concern about a section of the present act that allows the minister, following a hearing, to cancel a certificate of incorporation and dissolve the corporation where "sufficient cause" is shown. The new bill will not only transfer this authority to the director, but it also defines in part what constitutes "sufficient cause." We are proposing that a certificate of incorporation could be cancelled following a hearing, if there has been a conviction under the Criminal Code of Canada or the Provincial Offences Act in circumstances where it is in the public interest to cancel the certificate and dissolve the corporation.

To assure a measure of independence to boards of directors of offering corporations, it is proposed that at least one third of the directors shall **not** be officers or employees of the corporations.

While I am speaking of directors, I should mention that the section in the present act that requires a director or officer to disclose his or her interest in a material contract or transaction with the corporation has been retained, with the same limitations on liability.

10:10 a.m.

A proposed new subsection gives the corporation, a shareholder, or in the case of an offering company, the Ontario Securities Commission, the right to apply to the court to set aside any contract in which an officer of a corporation failed to disclose an interest. The act empowers the court to set aside the contract or transaction and direct an accounting to the corporation for any profit or gain made by such a director or officer it he sees fit.

There is one further provision that I would like to mention, and that concerns the transition requirements for the more than one quarter million corporations in this province when we move from the old act to the new. When the Canada Business Corporations Act was amended some 12,000 federally incorporated companies were required to file articles of continuance by a specified day or be dissolved and their assets forfeited. No such fate is in store for Ontario business corporations under the proposed bill. What will happen is that all provincial business corporations will come under the new act automatically.

I believe the changes we are proposing to the Business Corporations Act that improve minority shareholder rights will foster increased investor confidence in Ontario business corporations and assist the business community in raising capital.

INTEREST RATES

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, I believe copies of my statement have been delivered to the opposition members. Have they?

Mr. Cassidy: Yes. For once the minister did the decent thing.

Hon Mr. Henderson: Thank you. The honourable member is very nice this morning.

Yesterday, I made a number of comments on interest rates. Members will recall I emphasized that the government of Canada, through the Bank of Canada, was using high interest rates to achieve a number of objectives, such as fighting inflation and protecting the dollar.

Since interest rates are a federal matter, I sent a telex to the federal Minister of Agriculture on April 16, a week ago yesterday, asking him to convene a meeting of the country's agricultural ministers to discuss emergency credit assistance for farmers. So far, Mr. Whelan has only acknowledged receipt of my telex.

Mr. Riddell: In the meantime, farmers are still going bankrupt.

Mr. Nixon: Why doesn't the minister spend the $20 million we already voted for it?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: It shows the lack of interest about the real problem by that party over there; they really do not want to face the truth. Mr. Speaker, if I might, I would like to continue without listening to that garbage.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Those members opposite do not usually use garbage.

I have also established an Ontario committee on farm financing. I have invited representatives of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Canadian Bankers' Association, the Canada Department of Agriculture and livestock producers, together with members of my own staff. The first meeting will be held next Monday to review what credit agencies are doing to minimize the effect of high input costs.

Again, Mr. Whelan has only acknowledged receipt of the invitation to send a representative; no name has been presented. However, I am happy to tell this House that the Canadian Bankers' Association, the Ontario Pork Producers' Marketing Board, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Ontario Cattlemen's Association have all responded favourably.

Mr. Smith: That they are going to come to a meeting? Marvellous!

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Yes, they are coming.

Mr. Smith: What do you expect them to do? Refuse to come to a meeting?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: We have had no response from the federal minister that he is going to send anybody. Again, it is his lack of interest.

I assure members that the government of Ontario is concerned about the effect that high interest rates are having on the farm community. We also recognize that changes must take place at the source of the problem for any solution to be meaningful or effective. We will continue to work towards a resolution at the federal level, where the source of the problem exists. I would ask those on the side opposite to do likewise with those people they call their friends in Ottawa.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that one of the first pieces of legislation to come before this thirty-second Parliament will be an Act to Revise and Extend the Protection of Human Rights in Ontario.

Mr. Cassidy: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Honourable members will be aware of the strength of my personal commitment and that of the government—

Mr. Cassidy: On a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Cassidy has a point of order.

Mr. Cassidy: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: While I was on my feet seeking to draw the Speaker's attention to the fact, I received a copy of the minister's statement. But it is the practice in the House that the statements are given to the opposition parties before the statement is made and not during or after. I believe it is also the practice of this House that points of order have precedent over other statements.

Mr. Speaker: The opposition leaders are now in possession of copies of this statement?

Mr. Smith: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I did not deliberately attempt to deprive them of the benefit of this statement. It was available for distribution, and I regret it. If I may continue:

Honourable members will be aware of the strength of my own personal commitment and that of the government to this comprehensive review of the Ontario Human Rights Code. I was most gratified by the positive response accorded to Bill 209 by opposition members when we discussed it in this House in December, and in the intervening months I have continued to hear favourable comments from citizens in all parts of Ontario. I look forward now to introducing a bill later today and to our subsequent further discussion.

I believe that this legislation has truly captured that spirit of fairness and equality which already motivates the vast majority of people in this province.

I have referred previously to a new beginning for human rights in Ontario. In expanding the protection of the code to address discrimination on several new grounds, most notably that of physical and mental handicap, and in the other new provisions we will be introducing, we are proposing a code which in my view reflects the needs and the will of the people of Ontario.

ORAL QUESTIONS

NAKINA FIRE

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Premier with regard to the Nakina fire.

Given that the families of the young people who died in that fire were originally told a fictitious story, and that they had to obtain legal assistance to find out the truth—or at least as much of the truth that has so far emerged—as to how their young people were burned to death through the liability of the government, can the Premier explain why these people are now not being offered compensation to pay for all of their legal costs and are instead being offered a so-called preliminary offer of a preposterous $15,000 per death?

Can the Premier explain why his government will not immediately pay the legal costs incurred by these families in their efforts to find the truth and get past the fiction that was originally perpetrated, and then go on to negotiation with the family about what might be a proper settlement in a tragic situation of this kind?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am going a little bit by memory. The question should more properly be directed to the Solicitor General (Mr. McMurtry), who is not here this morning; so I will endeavour to give as much information to the Leader of the Opposition as I can.

I am going strictly by recollection, but my recollection is that the government really acknowledged liability. I think it is a little bit unfair for the Leader of the Opposition to suggest there was any attempt on the part of ministry officials to deliberately cloud this issue. I really do not think that is a fair assessment.

I am not going to comment. The member might discuss with some of his colleagues who happen to be in the legal profession the precedents that exist in terms of liability awards in the unfortunate deaths of young people. I think the precedents are fairly clear, and I am not passing any judgement on these, that the amount of awards in situations of this kind are not that high. I think that is the law as it has been established. I think it is fair to state—and I may be wrong in this—that some families, perhaps with legal advice, understand this and may or may not be prepared to settle.

10:20 a.m.

The member should not shake his head. I think there are some who may have, but at the same time the desire of the government is to have this determined, perhaps by one or two individuals, to see what the courts might determine, which would avoid a great duplication of legal costs.

I think all of us would like to see it settled without further litigation, but perhaps that is the best route to go so that both parents and the public would know that some judicial body or person has determined what the amount should be. I find it very difficult to talk about amounts when one is talking about the tragedy that took place.

With respect to costs, I think the government would be sympathetic in terms of, say, a single case and the cost that might be incurred in that litigation. If the Leader of the Opposition will check the usual practice and involvement of the profession in terms of activities of a coroner's jury or inquest, which does not determine amounts of liability, he may find it is not the normal practice of the profession to be involved at coroners' inquests on a daily basis.

I think it would be saying that the government or the crown should automatically move in and pay very substantial legal costs because two or three members of the profession in their judgement—and they made that judgement—found it in their clients' interests, in their view, to attend on a daily basis an inquest where the question of the amount of claim that might be adjudicated was really not the issue at the inquest.

The inquest was held to determine how the tragedy took place. It took place to make recommendations as to how this might be avoided in future, whether there were certain regulations that were not observed or whether regulations or policies perhaps should be in effect to see this sort of tragedy never occurs again.

My limited recollection of the law does not indicate that coroners' inquests per se determine the amount if there is liability. I think the Leader of the Opposition might consider the liability of the crown with respect to those costs incurred by those lawyers, or those costs that some lawyers are now seeking because they determined they would attend the inquest with great regularity, when the inquest does not determine the amount to which the parents of these young people might be entitled.

I can only say to the Leader of the Opposition that this government is very anxious to see this matter resolved. We are obviously very sympathetic to the concerns of these parents, and we will make every effort to see this matter is resolved just as soon as we can.

Mr. Smith: Does the Premier not appreciate that it is a question not of what lawyers did, but of what the parents hired lawyers to do? Does the Premier not understand that the parents having been given, and I repeat it, a fictitious and false story about how their children died, then had to go and rely on legal advice and on having lawyers present whenever officials testified, even be it at a coroner's inquest, not to determine how much money a life might be worth or how much liability amounts to in dollar terms, but simply to get the truth of how it happened?

The Premier must surely understand the parents hired the lawyers to get a true story instead of a fictitious one, and now it is surely the government's responsibility, first, to pay all the legal fees so far incurred by these parents in their efforts to find out how their young people were burned and then, if they like, to go to court about the issue of how much a court recognizes a life is worth according to present legal practice.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Once again I am at some slight disadvantage here, and I am subject to correction by the Solicitor General or the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope). I am going by recollection, but I believe the former Minister of Natural Resources, right here in this House, acknowledged liability.

I present the proposition to the Leader of the Opposition that liability having been determined by the government—and I am not going to pass judgement on those lawyers who felt they still should attend the inquest, but I think it is fair to state that their function at that inquest obviously did not relate to the question of liability—I think the crown would be in some position of criticism if it were to pay the costs the lawyers incurred in terms of deciding that they would attend the inquest.

I say to the Leader of the Opposition that an inquest is held like many normal proceedings. The witnesses are there under oath. You have a coroner who is sitting somewhat like a judge. You have counsel there in terms of conducting the inquest. And, with great respect, to say that the parents' rights had to be protected in terms of the inquest is demonstrating, perhaps not a lack of knowledge, but—

Mr. Smith: They were lied to.

Hon. Mr. Davis: With great respect, I think the Leader of the Opposition should be very careful in suggesting that officials of the ministry lied.

Mr. Smith: Yes, they did.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have to say to the Leader of the Opposition that it is easy to make that observation. I will get the dates when these events took place, but it was fairly early on in the proceedings that the government admitted the liability. The liability is that which the parents are concerned about, and properly so.

If there is not a settlement, it is then a question for the courts to determine the amount of liability. The government is not disputing this at all. But the question of whether lawyers' fees, which in this case in one or two instances are very substantial, were incurred because they decided to attend the inquest day after day is another issue.

Mr. Foulds: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: If the Premier now enunciates the government's acceptance of liability, and if the Premier now says it is the government's position that it wants to expedite and settle the matter as quickly as possible, can he explain why the crown failed to file a statement of defence before the court for almost a year?

Is the Premier not embarrassed by Judge Fitzgerald's decision, which was brought down earlier this month, in which he said the delay by the crown was patently deliberate, that the crown failed to give any excuse or reason for that delay and that the government itself is responsible for the delay in the proceedings?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I have learned never to be embarrassed by judgements of the courts, nor do I comment upon them or differ with them. I am not going to make the mistake of questioning the judgement of a member of the bench. If the government were to question this, we would do it by way of appeal, but the member is not going to get me involved in that sort of discussion.

I think the relevant issue here is the mechanism to determine this issue, to get it settled—

Mr. Foulds: You didn't take advantage of that mechanism. You obstructed that mechanism.

10:30 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am not admitting the government's liability here this morning. That admission was made some many months ago. I want that clearly understood. I do not want the member to try to introduce into public discussion that I am stating government's liability today. That has already been accepted. What has to be determined now is the extent of that liability, and I think we have a responsibility. If it can be settled by negotiation, great. But if there are any outstanding doubts in the minds of

the parents as to the amount, then I would be happier as an individual if that determination were made in the courts.

Mr. Foulds: Why did the Premier obstruct that mechanism for nine months?

Hon. Mr. Davis: With great respect, it is not a question of obstruction at all.

Mr. Cassidy: They couldn't go forward without the Premier's participation.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Well, it is not; it is not a question of obstruction. The members of the third party are trying to create the impression—they have done it for years—that they are the only ones who have a certain sensitivity to some of these very difficult issues. I will match this government's sensitivity with respect to these human issues with that of the leader of the New Democratic party or the Leader of the Opposition any day of the week.

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Will the Premier not agree how unfair his attitude must appear to parents when he indicates that their lawyers perhaps should not have been attending the inquest on a daily basis, when their objections referred to the Supreme Court were supported by the Honourable Mr. Justice Pennell, which saw substantial changes in the conduct at the inquest, and then the comments of the judge referred to by the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds)? Is it a further indication that justice appears not to have been done in this instance? It was certainly not done to the satisfaction of all of the members of this House, to say nothing of the parents themselves.

Does the Premier not recall that in his statement, very properly made immediately after the tragedy, he said he personally would see that all of the information in this would be made public without delay? Does he not feel a certain regret that his lack of decisiveness in this instance has led to the long, drawn-out and beleaguered inquest, the statements by the various judges and the dissatisfaction by the parents which is still quite evident?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I was not at the inquest and I do not have all the information available, but my recollection once again is that the crown was not responsible for some of the delays in the inquest. I see no contradiction whatsoever in the statements I and the minister made.

Mr. Nixon: So-called objections and delays that were upheld by the Supreme Court of Ontario. He is implying that the lawyers were delaying.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Just a minute. I listened to the member without any interruption; perhaps he will do me the courtesy of listening to me.

This government does not determine the legal process of the inquest. The inquest is conducted by the coroner. The coroner conducted the inquest in the way he felt was most proper, and the crown did not delay the conduct of that inquest.

I just point out to the member for Brant--Haldimand-Norfolk-Oxford-wherever—

Mr. Nixon: He should just call it Brant for the next four years, because he is never going to get it right.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I know. Listen, I admit to my human frailties.

Mr. Nixon: Slow learners are all alike.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have to say, we have been slow learners for 38 years, but we are still learning. That is the mistake the people on that side have made: they never have learned.

As a former Minister of Education, I used to make the observation that learning was a lifetime process. I confess that I am still in the learning stage.

Mr. Foulds: Direct that question to the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Listen, as an academic, the member should know that the learning process is an ongoing situation. He should remember it and practise it; it would do him some good.

Mr. Speaker: Will the Premier please return to the question?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I will return to the question, Mr. Speaker. I am trying to point out, and I just do not want any misunderstanding by members of this House or the public, that the government has accepted and admitted liability. We are anxious to see that this liability, the extent of it in terms of money—and I feel badly that really we are talking about money in terms of this tragedy, but that is the reality—we are as anxious as are the parents to see that this is brought to a reasonable conclusion. We are making efforts to see that happens.

AID TO PENSIONERS

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Premier a question. He will recall his tax grants for seniors program, "Because Ontario Cares." He will recall that 40 seniors at St Anne's Tower here in Toronto were surprised to learn, after they had received the money, that they were to give it back and were to get, as were

about another 90,000 seniors, less money under the new program than they used to get under the old program with the pensioner tax credit.

The Premier will recall that we had some discussion in the House about why his government was hounding these poor people to give back the money they had inadvertently received. May I ask the Premier if he can confirm that these people are still being hounded to return this money?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think this would be a great opportunity. The Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) actually debated this with the Leader of the Opposition and, I believe, with the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) on other occasions, as did the former Minister of Revenue. I would be delighted to discuss it, but I think it is a very proper question to be directed to the new Minister of Revenue.

I would suggest, in that that is where the responsibility for this very great program lies, that here is an opportunity for the Minister of Revenue to answer his first question in his new portfolio.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, the issue that has been brought up by the Leader of the Opposition is very relevant and one that I think the ministry has been treating very equitably. There is no doubt about the policy of this government as it relates to returning to people of this province a portion of their rent or a portion of their taxes, as the case may be, and that is the principle that was involved.

In the cases where people were inadvertently paid moneys that were not legally due to them—and we will not get into the reasons why, but we have those statistics—we are looking at these issues on an individual basis and being as charitable as is possible to arrange. I still think it is necessary, to recover these moneys because, as the legislation now stands, they have been illegally paid to them. But we are being very charitable to work out with them repayment arrangements that recognize their individual circumstances, and that is exactly the way it is being handled. They are not being badgered—I think was the word that was used—in any way, and we are working out arrangements that we hope will suit them without hindering their financial conditions.

Mr. Smith: May I ask the minister what is the reasoning behind his present actions by which many of these same people who are being asked to give back the money, have now received a second instalment of $250 at the very same locations? May I ask whether this is a new program designed to dangle more temptation in front of these elderly people to perhaps make their lives a little more interesting and remind them of how much Ontario cares?

Does the minister not think the best thing to do would be, first of all, to ask his colleague the Treasurer to reintroduce the pensioner tax credits so that no one gets less than he used to get and, second, will he see what is going on at his ministry now that he has taken over?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: I think it is safe to say that in a program of this nature, where we disbursed more than half a million cheques within a very short period of time—just in the last few weeks—it is quite possible with that kind of volume that we could have made the odd mistake, and I acknowledge that. It possibly should not be, but it may have happened, and we will look into the numbers.

The other part of that I would look upon in a very positive way, because we are working very charitably with these people; we want to keep their debts on a current basis so we are helping them pay back their old debts and looking upon it as a new debt.

10:40 a.m.

Mr. MacDonald: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: The minister may recall that, in an equally hastily conceived program prior to an earlier election, there was some $13 million distributed by maladministration of the homeowners' grant. The government saw fit to write it off after a period of anguish in trying to come to grips with that. Will the minister, instead of going through the same anguish in trying to reclaim this money from senior citizens, take that action now instead of six months from now?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, of course I cannot answer that at this time. At the moment the legislation requires these moneys be repaid. As I mentioned before, we look at all of these issues with charity, and we look at the practicability. I am sure we will be examining the numbers and the circumstances involved. If it is felt appropriate to change the policy, we will be back and will so inform this House.

Ms. Copps: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Is the minister also seeking—as is the case in some instances—a rebate on a prorated basis for those people who have died during the last half of 1980?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, I will have to take that particular supplementary as notice.

HOUSING PRICES

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Housing about the cost of housing and how people can afford it here in Metropolitan Toronto.

Last November the average income required to buy an average house in Metropolitan Toronto was $37,000. Today, with the average price of houses in Metropolitan Toronto, including the suburbs, at $81,000, and with an increase in interest rates for mortgages to 17 per cent announced this week, it requires a family income of $44,661 per annum to afford the average home in Metropolitan Toronto. What proposals does the minister have to ensure that people with incomes of less than $44,000 will be able to have homes of their own in Metropolitan Toronto?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, I guess this is a follow-up to the questions we went through yesterday in relationship to the price of housing units, not only in the Metropolitan Toronto area but also, I guess, across Ontario.

As I said yesterday, most of the problems we have been confronted with—

Mr. Swart: Got your act together today?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Just listen for a moment to what I am going to say. When the honourable member starts talking—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I tell you, Mr. Speaker, if you ever get the leader of the third party to listen to anything, he will go further down the drain.

One of the problems is that everyone wants to start referring to averages. Frankly, I said yesterday one of the things that has happened with some degree of shock is the very inflated increase in prices of rental accommodation and of ownership accommodation in the downtown core areas of places like Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa and various other communities of this province. When one starts adding those in to give average figures, it leads one somewhat away from the realistic application of prices in the outlying areas of those major municipalities.

I suggested to the leader of the third party that, if he would like to go out and visit some of the subdivisions in this particular area of the province or in other jurisdictions of Ontario, he would find that average price really does not hold true. I have to say it does not hold correctly to his figure.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I said to you and to this House that last year in this province on multiple listing service listings, about 40 per cent of all sales were under $60,000. Also, over the period of time from 1976 to 1980 there was less than a 10 per cent increase in the cost of private single-family housing outside of the metropolitan areas. I am referring to the core areas of places like Toronto.

I still say, and I repeat it again, that I think I am in accord with the federal minister in relation to the problem of supplying housing in this economy. For government to step in and try to curb the price of housing will only stop up the housing industry completely.

Mr. Cassidy: The minister is like Nero, who fiddled while Rome burned, and that is exactly what he is doing. He is doing nothing while families are getting pushed out of housing.

I would like to ask the minister, what is the significance of the statement in the throne speech where the government says, "The importance of the role of the family in our society cannot be too strongly emphasized"? The government also said, "The government's activities therefore will continue to reflect and respond to the nature of our people and to the desire that family life and other traditional values remain an influence and a force in the Ontario way of life."

Is the minister saying that having a home of one's own in which to raise a family is not a part of the traditional values people have enjoyed in Ontario? Is that why he is not prepared to defend it? Or is he abandoning the promise made in the throne speech, that the government will do something for families who want to have homes of their own?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I will be delighted to get from the leader of the third party all of his facts and figures about who is being pushed out of their homes at this time. I will be delighted, because I have to tell the honourable member I do not know of them, other than those who may not be paying their mortgages and some of them are four and five years in arrears. I am sure the trust companies and the mortgage companies, including the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, without divulging confidentiality, will be delighted to give him the statistics on some of the arrears they are contending with.

This government has invested a great deal of money on behalf of the people of Ontario in assisting municipalities and bringing on stream serviced lots for single and multiple use. I said yesterday in this House that we invested $106 million to facilitate the opening of a great amount of land in those areas of the province

where there is a demand for housing. I can think of those in Markham, in Peel and in various other regions.

Just as an example, under the Ontario housing action program, there were interest-free loans by this government to assist those regions or municipalities. In the Ottawa-Carleton area, $10 million was lent to put sewer and water infrastructure in the ground to facilitate development, a great deal of it in areas that the leader of the third party and I know specifically about.

In Hamilton-Wentworth, we lent better than $9 million; in Halton, something more than $17 million; in the York-Durham situation, $46 million for the York-Durham major service which will facilitate a tremendous amount of land for development purposes. In the Peel area, there was $8 million for Brampton and $3 million for Mississauga, for a total of about $11 million.

In Metro there was $10 million. I suppose that is in keeping with the right political representation in that area.

In York there was $2.5 million.

To be more specific in answering the leader of the third party's problem, frankly there are some 70,000 lots for singles or multiples that could be put under development tomorrow, because they are at the point of only having to be registered with the municipality. In my opinion, that is positive action by this government to assist the municipalities in making land available at a reasonable price to facilitate the development and construction of single-family homes.

I am one who believes I am doing my part for the betterment of society and the increase of family composition. I am looking after it at my own expense as well.

Mr. Ruprecht: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: I listened to the minister's statement and his extensive remarks quite attentively yesterday and today. Through all the obfuscation he is giving this House, I would like to know whether the minister is prepared to tell the people of this metropolitan area that he and his government are doing absolutely nothing about the spiralling increase in housing prices.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that a member of the Liberal caucus should ask that particular question in relation to some of the comments and questions that have been placed to the federal representative in Ottawa who represents CMHC and who is also a former mayor of Scarborough. The former mayor of Scarborough should know a little about what is going on in this area. He has said frankly he does not intend to do anything at this time.

I said yesterday, and it was concurred in by the Treasurer, that we do not intend to bring back and put in place a speculation tax in this province.

10:50 a.m.

Secondly, I said very clearly that if there is a capital gains tax that is also applicable against those who wish to buy property and speculate, there will be an increase in it. If they do not reside in it, the capital gains tax takes place in that particular situation. I do not intend to recommend to this government that we start on another program by the provincial and federal governments to interfere with the free market of the real estate housing and rental industry.

Mr. Wildman: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: The minister seems to be indicating by continually referring to his facts that suburban prices are less than city core prices. He keeps saying that perhaps working-class people could move to the suburbs. Does he really believe that is a viable alternative for people in view of the rising costs of energy as well as housing in this province and in the country in general?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, I think one has to look at the inevitable. Not everyone is going to be able to live in the core area of any community. In frank fairness to the government in relationship to the fact that there is going to be an increasing population and there is going to be a fair number who will have to live beyond the core area, this government has invested a great deal of money in urban transportation facilities, such as the GO Transit system, that facilitate the movement with a lesser use of energy.

APPOINTMENT OF FORMER MINISTER

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier about the ethics of government. Does the Premier not consider it wrong that a member of his cabinet should take a position with a pulp and paper company within a matter of days after his retirement from the Legislature and from the cabinet, when that member in his cabinet responsibilities had been responsible for resources development and had also been a member of the board which has given a grant of $4.65 million to Spruce Falls Power and Paper Company? Did the Premier consider that to be proper when he went on the payroll within days of leaving the cabinet?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I always feel a little badly when questions of this nature are asked. I guess perhaps I have known the former member better than some of you opposite—perhaps not better than one or two—and I do not know of anybody in my political life whom I have met who is certainly any more highly principled than the former member for Cochrane North, Mr. Brunelle.

I realize a columnist for one of Toronto's leading morning papers had some observations about this matter. Far be it from me ever to be critical of what columnists or others write in the press, but I find it somewhat unfortunate that the member for Ottawa Centre is by innuendo suggesting that the former member for Cochrane North is anything less than a very decent, honourable person. He has accepted employment with a firm which happens to be geographically located very close to a community where he has spent most of his life. He has been retained, or whatever the terminology is, by a firm where he understands some of the nature of that particular business.

To suggest that he in any way compromised his principles while a member of the executive council of the government of the province of Ontario by accepting a job with a firm located in the riding that he represented, in a community close to his own home, means then that the member for Ottawa Centre does not know that individual as well as I do.

I take offence, Mr. Speaker, at the implications suggested by the member for Ottawa Centre. I see nothing wrong, because I know him. He would never do anything to compromise his principles, and if the member is asking me whether he should or should not have accepted that employment, my answer very simply is that Rene Brunelle is an honest, decent person and he accepted employment in his judgement in a proper way and I certainly would not question that decision.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, some years ago in this cabinet, this government brought in conflict of interest rules to apply to cabinet ministers specifically in order to ensure that any suggestion of a conflict of interest would be removed. My question to the Premier is this: Does the Premier not see that in the public's eye, members of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development who will now be adjudicating grants worth hundreds of millions of dollars to industrial firms across the province over the next three or four years could, in following what the Premier has said, now be planning to go out into private industry when they retire from this place, into the firms over whose grants they had decision?

Surely there is a conflict of interest there. Will the Premier undertake to bring in stringent rules in order to ensure that retiring members of the cabinet not be put into that conflict situation in the future?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, the leader of the New Democratic Party, I think, made a fool of himself on Tuesday and he is doing it again here Friday morning.

Mr. Smith: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: I am sorry one has to do this, but I want to say that I happen to know Rene Brunelle and happen to think the world of Rene Brunelle and I want that on the record. I think he is a very fine man. I do not in any way suggest there is anything that Rene Brunelle has done or would do that would be in way dishonest or less than totally honourable. Let's be clear about that.

I do ask, by way of supplementary, however, whether the Premier is aware that in the conflict of interest guidelines of the federal government it is clearly stated that in order that the population of the country not be in any way given the wrong impression, ministers ought to obey certain guidelines and that within a period of two years of leaving office, ministers are required not to accept appointment on a board of a corporation with whom they have been dealing and so on.

The issue is not what has been done in the case of Mr. Brunelle at all; the issue is whether the public will have confidence in the way in which the cabinet and the government will conduct itself in its dealings with large and powerful corporations. That being the case, would the Premier not give consideration to adopting a similar guideline in Ontario to that which exists in the federal government?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, this government introduced guidelines with respect to the conduct of members of the executive council well before the federal government. I am not going to get into personalities or give the House examples where, in fact, "the guidelines"—and they are more than guidelines here—are observed, but perhaps they are people who have been in federal politics who, in the nature of their business, whether they happen to be in the legal profession or others, by the nature of the business they are in fact dealing with or acting for people who had dealings with the government of Canada.

I would even say that private members in this

House, when they retire or when they are defeated, by the nature of their practice—I am only referring to a profession I know full well—may be dealing or acting for clients dealing with legislation when, as members of this Legislature, they had a hand in making those determinations.

Where, Mr. Speaker, do you draw the line? I think you have to look at it in terms of a public responsibility. I have a public responsibility in terms of the activity of members of the executive council, members of our caucus, but I do not have a responsibility in the situation that has been mentioned by the leader of the New Democratic Party, and I now see joined in by the Leader of the Opposition, where I say to a former colleague, "Because you were involved "—

11 a.m.

Mr. Smith: Come on.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Listen, you said you thought Mr. Brunelle was a fine person.

Mr. Smith: That is right, and an honourable man.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That is right.

Mr. Cassidy: And Brutus is an honourable man.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Then if he is an honourable man, why is the member joining in raising this issue?

Mr. Cassidy: The reason I raised this issue, Mr. Speaker, is because I think it is important for all of us to ensure that this Legislature is above reproach, and to ensure that questions the public may raise about people using political positions cannot be raised because of oversights, or because of policies that are carried out in this place.

I would like to ask the Premier, does he not understand that there must be rules, as there are in the federal Parliament, in order to ensure that the members of the cabinet of this province, and people who retire from the cabinet of the province, are above reproach and that not to pass the kind of guidelines I am calling for will call into question whether the government is staying at a proper distance from private industry in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, it may call this into question in the member's mind. I just repeat, as far as the former member for Cochrane North is concerned, he would never have done anything in his area of responsibility as a minister of the crown that would have conflicted with his personal integrity. His acceptance of employment, or whatever term has been used—I am not even sure of his official capacity with that organization—would never in any way have prejudiced his judgement while serving as a member of the executive council. I find it very unfortunate that the honourable member would raise it in this fashion.

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT STUDIES

Mr. Epp: I have a question for the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. Given the fact that the government commissioned several regional government studies over the last number of years, and given the fact that the government has had almost a total record of failure with respect to implementing these various studies—after spending, for instance, over a $1 million on the Robarts study on Metropolitan Toronto, almost $400,000 in Hamilton-Wentworth and over $360,000 in Waterloo—what is the government's intention with respect to these studies and the implementation of those recommendations?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, first of all I think we have debated this at length during various estimates. My friend has taken part in those debates. I categorically deny that we have ignored those studies. The fact is that those studies had been looked at by people in the particular regions concerned and some of the important recommendations had been rejected by most of the people in the regions.

Therefore, having paid due accord to those studies, but also having listened to the people in the regions, we then decided to take the viewpoint of those people in the regions who are most directly concerned and who I believe should be the ones to bring forward recommendations for improvement and change in the regional government structure in their area.

Let me give you an example. In Metropolitan Toronto, the basis of the Robarts report was to change the boundaries of the boroughs and the city of Toronto, a suggestion that was almost universally rejected by politicians, except in two of the smaller boroughs of this particular area. That suggestion and that concern by the local politicians and the local people in this area was taken by this government and was acted upon. That means we did, in fact, act upon the recommendations of the Robarts report on this

area; we rejected them. That rejection, I think, was accepted by at least 80 per cent of the people of this particular area.

Mr. MacDonald: All except the victims.

Hon. Mr. Wells: All except who?

Mr. MacDonald: The victims.

Hon. Mr. Wells: The victims. I am sorry I could not hear my friend but he said "the victims." We promise to do something for the victims. Some of them are represented by my friend and others in this House and by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Elgie) and the Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell). In fact, some of the increases in grants have been the greatest for those particular areas.

I still say there will be further help for those particular areas so I really think the crux of the matter is that it is good to have a study. Everybody takes a look at what is happening but if one looks at each of the regional studies—Metropolitan Toronto, Ottawa, Waterloo and so on—one finds there is no universal agreement on what should be done. In fact, we have done those things that needed to be done.

As my friend knows, in his particular area I have said time and again if he has some better solution as to how that area should operate and be governed, he should bring it forward to us because I also find it very strange that when he was a mayor in that area he was at least lukewarm in enthusiasm for some type of regional government. Now he has gone around during election campaigns and said that regional government should be completely done away with in that particular area.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Wells: My friend says "Hamilton" and that indeed is a good example. I think the Hamilton situation is an excellent example. The commissioner recommended a one-tier system. Do we want a one-tier system in Hamilton? I said to Hamilton, "Make the system you have there work," and I think the people of Hamilton now have a system and are starting to make it work.

Mr. Epp: I find it amusing, if somewhat difficult, to understand why the government would appoint these various commissioners and then patently admit here in this House it has no confidence in them and that the recommendations they brought forth are not acceptable to the politicians in the various regions. The Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs is obviously admitting he has not consulted with the politicians in those regions, that the recommendations were not in concert with what the politicians wanted and therefore the politicians could not implement those policies or recommendations. Obviously, they were not sensitive to what the people wanted. The question is—

Hon. Mr. Davis: And you complain about me.

Mr. Epp: I have never complained about the Premier. I came here prepared to listen to his 30-minute answers. The question is, what plans does the government have, now that it has this arrogant majority in front of us here, to implement the recommendations of the Robarts report, the Stewart report, the Archer report, the Mayo report and the Palmer report?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I answered that question fully in my opening remarks for my estimates last year. I indicated what we would be doing in so far as those reports were concerned and what we would not be doing. I said clearly that the fact we didn't implement some of the recommendations did not mean we did not think the commissioner did a competent job and certainly was well within his rights in presenting those recommendations. All I am saying is that in the judgement of this ministry and this government in consultation with local people, the recommendations were not what we felt should be put into effect at this time.

I think it should be further said that the results of March 19 should finally convince the Liberal Party sitting over there that its total sort of flip-flop on regional government, by trying to suggest the way to go is just to destroy it and try to turn the clock back, has been completely rejected by the people of this province. It should start looking for the good things in regional government.

Ms. Bryden: Supplemetary, Mr. Speaker: Has the minister changed his position against the recommendation of the Robarts commission for direct election of Metro councillors, in view of the clear evidence that the present Metro councillors do not reflect the views of a majority of the people of Metropolitan Toronto on the question of the preservation of the Toronto Island neighborhood?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I could be convinced by my friend's mention of the Toronto Island matter in so far as Metro council is concerned, but I will not let that cloud my judgement. I still do not believe the kind of direct election that Mr. Robarts suggested would be in the best interest of a regional government

and a metropolitan system that has worked very well for more than 25 years in Metropolitan Toronto.

11:10 a.m.

INQUESTS

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), can I direct a question to the Premier of the province? I was pleased to hear this morning that the chief coroner in Ontario had ordered an inquest into the shooting death of Larry Johnson in Hamilton. What I am concerned with and what I would ask the Premier is whether or not he would talk to his colleague the Attorney General with some urgency and request that they proceed with an inquest into the deaths of Ann Teresa Schwark and her 12-year-old daughter Caroline, who were found apparently starved to death in an apartment building in north Hamilton after some three months of disappearance.

The attitude of the coroner involved, the delays in waiting for reports from the forensic lab seem to me to be small reason for not proceeding with an inquest which can get at the facts as to what kind of protection there was for this 12-year-old girl in that home. Would the Premier please intervene with his minister and ask that an inquest be held in this particular case?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, once again I stand to be corrected, but my information is that an inquest has been ordered.

Mr. Mackenzie: In the Schwark case?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes.

ALFRED AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. The minister will be aware of his personal written commitment made during the election campaign to my predecessor for the opening of the Alfred Agricultural College on September 1. Can the minister tell this House whether he is agreeable with the proposal that the students of the Alfred Agricultural College be housed in the same facilities as juvenile offenders now operating that facility?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, in response to the honourable member, he is well aware of the problem the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea) is faced with in removing the young people. He is well aware of the commitment made, as he said. These two ministers are looking at the overall situation. At this time I cannot give him the commitment that he is asking, that both not be housed there.

Mr. Boudria: I wonder if the Premier could assure this House that he will order his two ministries to ensure that this joint occupancy of those facilities, which is totally incompatible, will not occur and that he will direct his ministries to house the students in a different location from the present juvenile offenders, so that we will not keep losing registrations for that school as we are now. People are deregistering faster than they are registering for that facility.

Mr. Speaker: I think that was a redirection.

PENSIONS

Mr. McClellan: I have a question for the Treasurer, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the major policy statement the Treasurer made yesterday, appropriately at the Burlington Golf and Country Club to the Burlington Chamber of Commerce on the subject of pension reform.

In view of, if I might say, the very reactionary set of principles that was set out on page seven of that speech, which entirely ignores reforms to the public sector of the pension system, together with the remarks in this morning's Globe and Mail, I want to ask the Treasurer whether he is exercising the traditional Ontario veto over any reforms to the Canada pension plan, even in advance of the work of this Legislature's select committee on pensions.

Hon. F.S. Miller: No, I am not, Mr. Speaker. I simply pointed out that in fact Ontario has a veto.

Mr. McClellan: Is the Treasurer open to reforms to the Canada pension plan which would take the present earning ceilings above the ridiculously inadequate 25 per cent of pensionable earnings? Is the minister not aware that in all respects, whether we look at portability, vesting, indexing, coverage or the position of women, the private pension system has failed utterly and completely to protect senior citizens in this province and in this country? How can the minister be contemplating a reform of the pension system by putting all his eggs in that already mishmashed basket?

Hon. F.S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I suppose philosophically I have a lot more confidence in that mishmashed basket than the member's party ever has had. One of the great things one has to recognize is that we have had a very fine study, perhaps the best ever made, of the

pension system in Canada in the royal commission. That is a massive report of 10 volumes. It has 163 recommendations.

I am not prejudging those recommendations, but the one principle the report points out is this: There are routes to go in improving, as agreed, the pension system for Canadians. The report states it is better to use a private purchased money plan for the topping up of those than to expand the Canada pension plan.

I as Treasurer—and I have been criticized very often by the critic in the Liberal Party and sometimes by the NDP critic—have, like many other treasurers and ministers of finance, benefited from the cash flows that come from captive pension funds. This report basically says government shouldn't be the beneficiary of those because it is important to the economy to keep those funds available for economic investment. I agree with those kinds of principles.

Mr. Peterson: Supplementary: How can the minister be such a hypocrite? When he owes the Canada pension plan $9 billion and assorted other pension funds about $15 billion in total, he has been the chief beneficiary of this cheap money over the past decade. He is the one who has corrupted the system. Is he now having an about-face after all these years? Is he changing his mind on all these things? Does he understand the corruption he has brought on the whole system? He is the one who is violating exactly what he said he was against in the speech.

Hon. F. S. Miller: If the honourable member goes back, I think the very first time he criticized me in an estimates debate, we talked about this. If he looks back, most of the comments I made were saying that one should get out of borrowing from captive funds. In fact, we have done a better job in this province than the federal government or anybody else in terms of reducing our cash requirements.

11:20 a.m.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

BUSINESS CORPORATIONS ACT

Hon. Mr. Walker moved first reading of Bill 6, An Act to revise the Business Corporations Act.

Motion agreed to.

HUMAN RIGHTS CODE

Hon. Mr. Elgie moved first reading of Bill 7, An Act to revise and extend Protection of Human Rights in Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

USE OF MEMBERS' NAMES

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, many of us are intrigued by the practice which you initiated yesterday of referring to members of the assembly by their names rather than by their office, with the singular exception of members of the cabinet, who are referred to by their office rather than by their names. Could you tell us perhaps why you have changed the traditional practice and whether you intend to continue it? I myself would be concerned if that distinction were maintained.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, just while you are thinking about a response to that, if I might rise on a point of order, there is a general conception—I am not sure whether it is correct or not—that the names of members, their surnames and Christian names, should not be used in this House.

As I understand it, they should not be used in debate, so that there will be only an address through the chair and a reference to the member by the constituency he or she represents, which is supposed to keep things on a basis of fact and dispute without involving personalities; but as I recall my intensive study of the practice at Westminster, the Speaker there does refer to members by his or her name and it really makes for very rapid identification. Frankly, I don't see anything too wrong with that.

The only other problem is that we have a system of so-called punishment here, where Mr. Speaker may expel a person from the House by naming the member, and a lot of people feel, as I always have, that was associated with the Speaker actually using the name of the person in instructing him or her to withdraw. I do not believe that is correct. As for me, I would have no objection to Mr. Speaker continuing to use the names of the individual members, for convenience and rapid identification. Certainly it is a lot better than some of the problems that some of the members have with the name of my riding.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, if I could offer a few comments also, I think this is a very interesting exchange. We have had a point drawn to our attention that you have been using surnames rather than the riding names for honourable members during question period, and my friend from Oxford-Haldimand-Norfolk—that is just to show you that I have mastered the riding name—

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No, it is Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Brant-Oxford-Norfolk. I was giving him a little extra territory.

I think it raises some interesting points. As I indicated yesterday, it was my privilege to watch the question period in Westminister a week or so ago, and I know from sitting in the gallery it was very interesting. They didn't give us any seating plan, because obviously there is no seating plan in Westminster. You are sitting there listening, and all of a sudden the Speaker says, "Next question, Mr. Winston Churchill," and of course everybody looks around to see who that is. It is a very interesting practice.

My suggestion would be, Mr. Speaker, that this again highlights matter—we talked about it yesterday—in redirecting questions, and I would not want to leave any impression with this House that I was trying to suggest any direction that you should take from that area because I certainly was not.

If I omitted to say it, I will say it right now under this point of order. I really felt that was a matter that should be looked at by the standing committee on procedural affairs. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, perhaps you might like to ask that the procedural affairs committee take a look at this also, just to have its advice.

I am not suggesting it necessarily is a matter that has to be there; it may be that it is completely within your prerogative. If that is so, I think then we would be happy to hear what your views on this matter are. But certainly it is one of those questions, and there are a number in our standing orders, which need to be looked at, some of them involving the House giving you some expression of opinion, some of them the House having to change its standing orders, some of them within your prerogative, which all suggests that there are things that need to be reviewed. I think we will get into that discussion in a few minutes when we talk about the kind of committees that should be set up.

Mr. McClellan: If I may, I am prepared to abide by your decision, Mr. Turner.

Mr. Speaker: If I may just reply to the point of privilege raised by Mr. McClellan, I have looked into this matter somewhat thoroughly and I think the answer is interesting and very simple.

I am advised that the designation of members by their electoral districts or of ministers by their portfolios is required only when speaking in debate on a specific motion. Under those circumstances, when you refer to another member, you do so in a formal manner. The correct and well-established procedure when the Speaker is recognizing members either in question period, in debate or at any other time, is that he calls them by name in the same way as members when moving a motion say, "Moved by"—themselves, whoever it may be—"seconded by Mr. So-and-So"—whatever the case may be.

I am advised that it is an order. There has been obviously some confusion in the minds of some members as to the proper names of ridings. I do not use that as an excuse because the former Speaker certainly did not have any problem that way. I suppose in actual fact it is one of the initiatives taken by me as a new Speaker, and, I am advised, well within the jurisdiction and authority of the chair.

I find it interesting and I would like to continue to do it. I would like to hear the further comments of members as we go along. I can assure the—I can assure Mr. Nixon that when the time comes to name a member there shall not be any confusion.

Mr. Breaugh: If I might raise a small point of order, here, in the last five years—in a different situation, granted—there has been established a procedural affairs committee of this House. All through the course of those five years there have been rather substantial changes in the standing orders, there have been some small changes in the practices and procedures of the House. But through all of that there grew, I thought and I hoped, a consensus that whenever practices of this House changed, whenever standing orders were changed, whenever the procedures were changed, all members on all sides were equals and all of us had the opportunity to voice an opinion before the change occurred.

We spent a great deal of time in reviewing standing orders to see that all members had the opportunity to voice an opinion before a change was made. If changes were contemplated by the government, by an opposition member, by a private member, everyone knew what was going to happen in advance and had the opportunity to voice an opinion. Out of that grew, I felt, not a great deal but some small measure of respect for the rules and procedures of this House. It would seem to me a great shame if we now threw that away. There is no real advantage for either government members or private members to abuse the rules; but there is a great advantage for all sides of the House to have developed some respect for the rules.

I would make a plea for you, Mr. Speaker, simply to do this, to try to maintain that tradition. In using the members' names, I would personally say that there is some small danger in that, that the precedent we have established here does not give us much decorum but once in

a while it is useful to have that little bit of decorum present. If there are going to be changes in procedures I suggest you use that committee, and that prior to the change taking place the members have an opportunity to voice an opinion.

I would close with this small warning to all those involved: If there are those here who want to make dramatic changes and let none of the private members voice an opinion before the changes occur, you are going to cause considerable resentment on all sides. The resentment most likely will be felt on this side first; but I assure you, if you stomp on my little foot today, you will feel that little foot on your anatomy tomorrow.

11:30 a.m.

Mr. Speaker: If I may just comment on the point of privilege. Your comments are well taken. Certainly it was not my intention and it will not be my intention to circumvent the procedural affairs committee or any other committee. If there are any dramatic or substantial changes, or changes indeed, they will be referred to that committee for its advice and recommendation.

However, in my view, this does not constitute a dramatic or substantial change. It is a matter that I am advised is well within the prerogative of the Speaker. As I mentioned earlier to the former member, I would like to try it, I would like to hear the continuing comments of members as we go along and certainly I will take all those comments into consideration. However, thank you very much for your comments.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, over the weekend you might contemplate whether you would wish members of the assembly to address you as Mr. Speaker or Mr. Turner.

Mr. Speaker: That is interesting.

Mr. Foulds: Are there distinctions between members here or not?

Mr. Speaker: No, there are not. I think I made that very clear in my explanation of what I was doing.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

STANDING COMMITTEES

Hon. Mr. Wells moved resolution 1:

That the following standing committees be established for this session, with power to examine and inquire into all such matters as may be referred to them by the House, with power to send for persons, papers and things, as provided in section 35 of the Legislative Assembly Act:

Standing committee on general government—12 members, with seven from the government party, three from the official opposition and two from the third party. Standing committee on resources development—12 members, as above. Standing committee on the administration of justice—12 members, as above. Standing committee on social development—12 members, as above.

Standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments—12 members, as above; appointed for this session to be the committee provided for by section 12 of the Regulations Act, and having the terms of reference as set out in that section, namely: to examine the regulations with particular reference to the scope and method of the exercise of delegated legislative power without reference to the merits of the policy or objectives to be effected by the regulations or enabling statutes, but in so doing regard shall be had to the following guidelines:

(a) regulations should not contain provisions initiating new policy, but should be confined to details to give effect to the policy established by the statute;

(b) regulations should be in strict accord with the statute conferring of power, particularly concerning personal liberties;

(c) regulations should be expressed in precise and unambiguous language;

(d) regulations should not have retrospective effect unless clearly authorized by statute;

(e) regulations should not exclude the jurisdiction of the courts;

(f) regulations should not impose a fine, imprisonment or other penalty;

(g) regulations should not shift the onus of proof of innocence to a person accused of an offence;

(h) regulations should not impose anything in the way of a tax (as distinct from fixing the amount of a licence, fee, or the like);

(i) general powers should not be used to establish a judicial tribunal or an administrative tribunal.

And the committee shall from time to time report to the House its observations, opinions and recommendations as required by section 12(3) of the Regulations Act, but before drawing the attention of the House to a regulation or other statutory instrument the committee shall afford the ministry or agency concerned an opportunity to furnish orally or in writing to the

committee such explanation as the ministry or agency thinks fit. And the committee shall have the power to employ counsel and such other staff as it considers necessary.

Standing committee on procedural affairs—12 members, as above, appointed for this parliament, to review and report to the House its observations and opinions on the operation of the standing orders of the House and such additional matters as may be referred to it by the House or by Mr. Speaker from time to time, and that the committees also have power to review the operation of all agencies, boards and commissions to which the Lieutenant Governor in Council makes some or all of the appointments, and all corporations in which the crown in right of Ontario is a majority shareholder, such reviews to be made with a view to reducing possible redundancy and overlapping; and the committee may not meet during summer adjournments or during intervals between sessions without authorization from the assembly.

Standing committee on members' services—12 members, as above, to examine the services to members from time to time and without interfering with the statutory responsibility of the Board of Internal Economy in such matters, be empowered to recommend to the consideration of the House matters it wishes to draw to the special attention of the board; and be empowered to act as an advisory committee to Mr. Speaker and the Board of Internal Economy on the administration of the House and the provision of services and facilities to members, and to draw the special attention of the House to such matters as the committee believes require it.

Standing committee on public accounts—12 members, with six from the government party, four from the official opposition and two from the third party. The reports of the provincial auditor for 1980-81 and the public accounts for 1980-81 are referred to the public accounts committee.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I wanted to speak briefly on the motion since it establishes for this session the standing committees that will be empowered to do certain work that is referred to the committees by the House. I will only speak briefly because I am anxious to hear the further items of business that will be conducted this morning before our adjournment.

I do regret, however, that the report of the standing committee on procedural affairs, which has been in our hands for many months, has not been implemented by the motion. To be fair, however, the House leaders and others who had been empowered to make these changes were just beginning to come to grips with it a bit when the Premier (Mr. Davis), in examining the chicken entrails that he looks at each morning, decided there should be an election and so the work on the committee system was stopped.

It should be possible, however, for us to review further the recommendations from the procedural affairs committee and in time to amend the committee system, perhaps even for the fall session. It is something the House might take under consideration. The House leaders might, I would hope and trust, make some recommendations on, or at least work out an agreement that would be acceptable to all members and all parties.

I have often felt, particularly under the present system, which not long ago was referred to as the new system, that we give up an opportunity to establish a certain degree of expertise, particularly as newly elected members, which we all are. If the committees as established corresponded to the specific responsibilities of the various government ministries, then over a period of time we, as members, would have special knowledge not only of the ministers and their deputies, but of those people in the ministries at the senior levels at least who assist in establishing policy and have everything to do with administration.

It would be helpful in my view if, instead of having standing committees that are largely catchall, such as general government and resources development, we actually had a larger number of committees with fewer members dealing with education, agriculture and specific things such as environment, where members, particularly newly elected ones, could arrange, because of their special interest, to be assigned to those committees. Over a period of months and years, if they chose or if it were possible to continue, they would develop a substantial area of expertise.

I should point out that, at least in some measure, that is the system that was used before the present reformed system came in. Like many things, it is sort of cyclical. I think the committee systems at municipal levels and at the federal level also go through similar cycles, that one can always presume that the next turn of the wheel is going to be better than the one we happen to be riding at the present time.

I also believe that inherent in that system would be a more convenient way to deal with the estimates and I believe the committee dealt with a possibility of improving our work on the

estimates. One of the things that seems to be least productive and most boring are the many hours that we spend in reviewing the estimates, important though they be. We actually review the expenditure of $17 billion to $18 billion and this is done in the committee rooms for long hours, well into the night, as some detailed questions and some not so detailed are dealt with.

While all of these discussions are recorded in Hansard and are available for the famous record that we deal with and talk about every now and then, it is only on very rare occasions that anything productive comes out of those committees either from the point of view of improving the efficiency of government or what perhaps some of us are looking for somewhere down the list of priorities: catching the government out in yet another failure of administration or judgement, although there are many of those, Mr. Speaker, as you know.

I do believe that if we had a larger number of committees, roughly paralleling the organization of government itself, over a period of a session they could deal with the estimates. Then we as a House could try to emphasize the importance of more general debate on matters pertaining to each ministry in the debate in this House on the concurrence in supply.

I see that the matter is of only limited interest, except that as we start into a session and allow ourselves to be immersed once more in the detailed discussion of estimates as we have done before, it is just like punishing ourselves for not having the foresight to come up with a better system. There is a limit in hours to the discussions that take place—

Mr. Breithaupt: Four hundred and twenty hours.

Mr. Nixon: My friend, the member for Kitchener, said 420 hours, which is absolutely crazy. We drive ourselves crazy here in spending these hours of detailed examination; and we could do it, I believe, in a very efficient way, leaving the issues which might attract broad public interest and support to be debated in this House on concurrence.

It might even be possible when we are reviewing the rules to allow a motion to amend the concurrence resolution to be in order. They were in order for a brief period at one time and then really, through nothing more than inadvertence, we lost the power to amend those resolutions. My feeling is the detail could be done in committee and it is extremely important, but that the general debate on matters of emerging policy or even political interest would take place in the House where I think more members would be able to participate.

I am also very interested and supportive of the concept of a special committee to deal with each bill that is referred by the House to a committee. The idea that we are going to have so many committees that we cannot handle them is an important objection, but at any one time there are only three or four bills that are being dealt with in committee. I may be wrong in that number. I suppose near the end of a high-pressure session there might be more, but there would certainly be no more than three or four major bills that would have to be dealt with.

As a bill goes forward for debate in this House on second reading, a debate in principle, then those members who have a special interest in the bill could be assigned by the party whips to a special committee—call it what you like, select committee or anything else, but a committee to deal only with that bill.

There would have to be some order as to where and how they would meet, but essentially it would be up to the chairman of that committee to get that bill reported back to the House after there had been sufficient time for its examination, either with public hearings or without. Once the bill is reported back, that committee would cease to exist. The bill could be dealt with effectively and efficiently in that way, and it would involve the members who are directly interested and involved in the bill with, of course, access to all members from time to time.

11:40 a.m.

The last thing I want to say is that I certainly do support the recommendation from the procedural affairs committee that we have a private bills committee. This is sort of a special favourite of mine, because my own experience has been that we have lost the flavour of what the private bills committee was in the past—almost a parliament within a parliament, or a sort of court within parliament, where corporations, municipal and otherwise, and individuals, could bring bills before the House for redress of certain specific situations or to amend their charters to improve and expand their powers. The private bills committee was, and is still in its present function, extremely powerful and does hold almost a complete power regardless of political differences over the proposals brought in from the corporations.

I was always very impressed by and quite interested in the fact that individual members

would cross party lines in response to arguments brought from people outside the House and from honourable members themselves. It is nice to think that can happen. In my view, it should be encouraged, particularly in matters such as this.

I am very strongly in favour of the re-establishment of a private bills committee that would deal with nothing but those matters. I hope that as we progress through this session it will be possible for us, as honourable members, and the procedural affairs committee to move towards the implementation of some of those recommendations for the fall session.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I want to make a few brief points. First, we are not at the present time debating the report of the previous procedural affairs committee, but I and our caucus would like an opportunity and a commitment that that will be done at some point during the course of this session.

Also, if there are going to be any negotiations around loss of estimates time—and I have some sympathies for the angst expressed by the previous speaker with regard to estimates—I think we might as well get it on the record right now that the opposition would be very much in default if it did not seek and obtain alternative venues for debate; for example, the opportunity to reply to ministerial statements and/or a combination of opposition days, such as exists in Ottawa.

Third, and I do this as a special request from the House leader of this party, if it is the government's intention or the government House leader's intention when naming the composition of each of the committees that the members of the government party will have the chairmanships of all of the committees except public accounts, then we in the opposition during the last few years have not exercised our authority wherein we should have taken all the chairmanships, having the majority in the House during that period of time.

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, I want to speak very briefly to this motion. I have no real problem with the motion as it has been put before the House today, and I think I have an understanding of what the government House leader has in mind, but I would feel a little remiss if I did not speak, because there were people in all three political parties who spent a great deal of time dealing with the structure of the committee system here.

While it was very easy to get agreement that the way things have always been done is not always the best way to do it, and it was very easy to get agreement on what was not right, it was often difficult to get out of the three political parties, and the members who were present and involved in the preparation of that report, a clear understanding and a unanimous one, which we felt was important, about where to go from there.

None the less, that report on committees was put together and it was struck; so in effect the purpose of the exercise was to design a committee structure that had something in it for everyone: a structure that was acceptable to the government, to opposition parties, to private members, to the cabinet, to the Speaker and, most important, to the people of Ontario, who sent us down here to conduct the business of the province.

While I hardly think any of us would sit back and claim that is the perfect committee structure, it was the best that group of people could come up with after that length of time .

I hope the government will now say that the commitment given last fall to provide this House with an opportunity to debate that report will be carried on some time in the spring session, and that the continuing study of the structure of the committee system here will be allowed to happen.

It seemed clear to me that, while we were not exactly toting around a piece of Nirvana that would solve everybody's problems, we had come up with some practical resolutions to problems that have traditionally plagued all members in this House, that it is worthy of at least that much consideration and that, in the end, we may move to a committee structure that is different from what is recommended in that report.

I think all of us will understand, if we follow the thinking of the members from all parties who sat in and designed that committee report, that there were things in that report that would make the government provide better government, opposition members become more effective and, more important, I guess, this place assume a new function.

And to add to that if there was a need to put a further reason to it, the government itself now has a number of people on its back benches who do not have cabinet responsibility or other experience. There is going to be a need for people to have an opportunity to participate in a committee system here that gives them a chance to find out how this place works, how the Legislature works, how the province of Ontario works.

If, like myself and a number of other members, they come from municipal or school board experience, they will understand that often a way to find out how the joint works is to spend time in committee. There, even though one might be the most junior member on a council, one gets an opportunity to learn and to participate in a way that this House itself, when it is in full session, does not always give one the chance to do some work.

I am sure that now, even on the government side, there is clear and ample reason to design a committee structure that is effective and functional and gives each and every individual member of this House the opportunity to feel, "I am here doing good work for my constituents and I am not here occupying a chair." That, I think, in a nutshell, was the basis of that investigation into committees and all the recommendations in there.

I am very pleased to support this resolution this morning. If I get a gentle nod or wink from the government House leader that, "Yes, we will have opportunity, one Thursday evening, to debate that report on committee and, yes, we are prepared to listen to members on all sides of this House to get a thoughtful and rational redesigning of our committee structure here," if he can give us that, I think he will do all members who sit in this House and, most important, the people of this province, a great service.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, as a former member of the procedural affairs committee, I want to endorse some of the comments made by the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) in relation to his duties as chairman of that procedural affairs committee.

I want to say that the thrust of that particular committee as outlined by him during his remarks was to involve not only the people who are in the executive council for the government of Ontario but also the people who are on the back benches of both the government and opposition sides. I hope the structure of the committees, and the structure of the rules in general, will tend to channel the interest of the back-benchers on our side, as well as of those on the opposition side, to a degree whereby they can become experts to some extent and in some manner so that they can make a contribution.

The other thing that I think is very important in terms of committee structure, and the structure of all our rules, is to try to design some kind of system whereby, because we have changed the nature of government at Queen's Park from a minority situation to a majority situation, the opposition back-bench members can feel they can make a significant contribution during the next four years that they are here.

As a member of the government, I want to indicate my openness to change to reach those goals that I think were proper in a minority situation and are still proper in a majority situation.

11:50 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I want to respond to some of the comments and say a few words about this motion.

The comments I have heard in this House from the honourable members who have spoken are certainly excellent and add to our better understanding of the procedures here.

What we are doing by this motion, of course, is setting up a committee structure for the spring session of this House. For the House to operate properly, we must have a committee structure in place, and this basically puts in place a structure for committees much the same as we had before but with some important differences.

One of the things that is the same is the fact that these committees will operate in the same manner as the committees of this House operated in the last Parliament. In other words, they will structure their own business. They will deal with matters referred to them. They will meet within the time guidelines decided upon, usually by agreement of the parties, so that we do not have confusion of meeting dates with the committees.

They will be able to appoint subcommittees and they will be expected to do some budget planning within the general guidelines of the Board of Internal Economy. They have a fair degree of autonomy to run their affairs—in fact, I would say a great degree of autonomy—and I think that is the way it should be for committees of this House.

What this motion does is a little different from what we had in the last Parliament. Before I get into that, I would like to preface those remarks by adding my words of commendation and congratulations to the member for Oshawa. I believe he served for about four years as chairman of the procedural affairs committee during the last Parliament, and I would say that committee, with members from all sides, did a very commendable job. They produced many reports for this House which helped to guide the smooth operations of the House. The last report was probably their greatest effort, and that was the

report on the proposal for a new committee system. It has already been referred to by my friend the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon).

The comments prompted me to look for the minutes of the meeting that the House leaders and the whips held, as I announced we would, as the House adjourned last December. We had one meeting where we started to review the report. There was a degree of agreement on some of the issues and there was disagreement on others but as I remember, and perhaps my friend remembers also, we certainly decided at the end of that meeting that we would need a number of other meetings to come up with a new system that we could recommend to this House and that had some degree of agreement.

That is in no way downplaying this report, which was the work of a dedicated committee and a group of people who worked hard to try to find a new committee system. I guess, as my friend knows, it is always easier to take somebody else's work and start looking for the little fine tuning in improvements that one can put into it than it is to develop a whole new system. We were beginning on that process of fine tuning.

What that leads me to say is that I think that work should continue, and in this group of committees we are setting up today the procedure—

Mr. Conway: Did the member for Oriole (Mr. Williams) ever get to Canberra?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I do not know. The honourable member will have to ask him.

What that leads me to say is that the procedural affairs committee will be reconstituted. It will be looking at the standing orders, and it will be looking at the procedure and proposals for a new committee system, but I say to my friend that I certainly give him my assurance that we will continue our study of the committee structure as proposed in that report. I am sure the other House leaders will do so. We will continue the work we began last December when we decided to look at the report.

The only other thing I would like to say is that some of the recommendations in that report, while not directly put into effect, are beginning to be put into effect in this motion, because we have adopted the proposal for smaller committees. While the report suggests 10 as the maximum, I think those who study the makeup of this House, the proportion who should be on the committees and so forth, will find that, practically, to do what we want to do, we all agree we must establish a maximum of 12.

Mr. Conway: The member for St. George (Ms. Fish) is looking very expectant.

Hon. Mr. Wells: We will be there in a minute.

I think 12 is a good number, and it is probably the lowest number to achieve the ratios that must be achieved and have the principle of small committees apply.

Carrying that one step forward, the next motion we are going to vote upon, for substitutions, will allow to happen what has been recommended in regard to considering bills. While we will not be setting up special committees, if we all agree then we can send those members who most want to be on one of the regular committees to consider a bill to substitute for that particular piece of legislation.

When a certain bill is referred to committee from this House it will be referred to a small committee of 12 and, through substitution arrangements of all parties, it can have on it those members of this House who are most directly connected with that bill for consideration of it. When that bill is finished, those members can be substituted for by someone else who is interested in the next piece of business of that committee.

Therefore, I think we have started on at least the spirit of those recommendations.

I certainly agree with my friend that we have to look at the number of hours allotted for estimates.

Mr. Nixon: No, that is not the same thing.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I understand what the member is saying, but I heard mention in this debate of certain quid pro quos and I hope that spirit of co-operation would exist here, because certainly at some time when the standing orders are reviewed, we are going to have to look at the whole time allocation for estimates and so forth. We all recognize that. Our point of view in that matter may be different from that of the official opposition and the third party, but certainly it is one of the things we want to look at.

I think the passage of this motion and then fleshing it out by the naming of the members of the committees, which we can do early next week, will set the further order of business of this House in motion. I hope the members will pass this motion today.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Wells moved resolution 2 on the Order Paper that, unless otherwise ordered,

substitution be permitted on all standing committees provided that written notice of substitution is given to the chairman of the committee before or early in the meeting.

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might be permitted a question on that. This is just a normal substitution motion that is put, but in the past we did have, for example, procedural affairs which did not provide for substitution. There was much debate and good reasoning on that. I take it this motion does not preclude the precedents that were set before. Or does it?

Hon. Mr. Wells: In answer to that, Mr. Speaker, I would say to my friend that this was discussed, and it was decided by all present that the idea of substitution on the procedural affairs committee should be allowed, but that it would be up to the parties; then and if by agreement they decided they did not want a substitute, they would not. But that again was done in the spirit of co-operation. All having expressed an opinion on it, it was felt that the general principle of substitution should apply to all committees.

12 noon

Mr. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, on the matter of substitution, without nitpicking on it, it just says, "by written notice of substitution." Will we be following any formality as to who will be providing that written notice, whether it be by the whip, the House leader or some other individual, or by the member in person? Is there any explanation of that?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I am breaking the rules by speaking again—it is really not a question-and-answer period—but the procedure for substitution will be laid out by the House leaders. This is just the general overall principle that the House is affirming, that there can be substitution and the general manner in which it will be done, and we will set the ground rules as to how it will be done by agreement.

Motion agreed to.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE
(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Ms. Fish: Mr. Speaker, let me echo the remarks that have been made by others in this House in congratulating you on your appointment. I share the thoughts of many of the other members who feel, certainly from greater experience than I in this assembly, that your role in ensuring the fair and efficient proceedings in this House is critical to us all. Certainly, we have seen your fine handling of some challenges in these few days.

May I also extend to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor best wishes on his first speech from the throne and extend to him and to his good family my thoughts and wishes to welcome them in the riding of St. George many times in the future.

As well, I would like to extend to my leader, the Premier (Mr. Davis), congratulations on this his tenth year serving not only as the leader of my party but also as Premier of this province.

It is indeed an honour for me to rise today and to commence the next few years' service with him as leader and as Premier. I have noted over 10 years of watching him, particularly from my vantage point in dealing with urban issues at city hall, that he has demonstrated a considerable sensitivity and understanding of the many and diverse issues that have confronted this province over the years and that confront him on a daily basis.

It was very much those qualities of sensitivity and understanding, and I might add considerable integrity, in dealing with matters of the day that led me to make a very serious decision to leave municipal politics and enter the world of partisan politics, to seek nomination for the good riding of St. George.

I would be remiss if I did not also comment upon how proud I am to be a member of the Progressive Conservative Party. In my view, my party has displayed a similar sensitivity and understanding over the years in dealing with diversity in this province and in leading this province to a better future. Indeed, it has displayed a sensitivity and understanding that has been the hallmark of not only its present leader but also all of its leaders over time, which in my view forms the basis for the vote of confidence that my party has been given over the years in this province and most recently on March 19.

Let me also take a few moments to pay a word of tribute to the former member for St. George, Mrs. Margaret Campbell. Mrs. Campbell and I do not share the same party affiliation, but we do share a common commitment to service to the people of St. George, to Toronto and, indeed, to Ontario. Mrs. Campbell had a very distinguished record of public service, a record that spanned many years, through municipal politics and most recently as a member of this

House. She was indeed a pioneer for women in many areas, in the professions and in politics, and she understood the complexity of urban life in a downtown riding and spoke up for the particular needs of constituents in St. George. It is my honour to follow in Mrs. Campbell's footsteps in serving the people of St. George.

The challenge that faces all of us today is really the challenge of a changing society, and I have had occasion to contribute to those changes here in Ontario. I am very proud to be standing before the assembly today, Mr. Speaker, and before you, as a new Canadian, having chosen as I did some years ago to leave my country of birth and to come forward to Toronto and to Ontario. I moved as an adult, and I moved with an understanding and a clear choice. Some of the reasons I moved are reasons that I think speak to Ontario, to our quality of life, to the strength of our institutions, to our traditions of tolerance and compassion, all of which I believe came together in a fashion that made Ontario truly a land of opportunity and have led so many like myself to leave their native lands and come forward to build new lives here.

There have been a number of changes in the society, as I mentioned. They are changes that have occurred all across Ontario. They are changes that perhaps we have seen more particularly occur in the last few years. Certainly our society is not the society that I looked at in the mid-1960s. We have seen changes in the economy, changes in extraordinary investment patterns that have moved some of our national investment and shifted it to the Maritimes and to the west, away from central Canada. We have seen startling inflation rates, high energy prices and an uncertainty of supply. We have seen, most recently with yesterday's announcements, record-breaking interest rates, notably in the Bank of Canada, and filtering as that does through interest rates throughout our society.

We have also seen some considerable changes in the social fabric of our society. We have seen a real ageing. We have seen extensive longevity in our society, which means that our people are living longer and our society is becoming older. At the same time, we have seen some considerable drops in the birth rate in our society. We have also seen considerable change in our lifestyles and our social values and, of course, changes that are brought by those like me who came as new immigrants to this country and who have put down our roots in this our new land.

These changes have occurred across Ontario, but I might say that I think many of them come into particularly sharp focus in the riding of St. George. Let me take just a moment to go over some of the problems that I think have arisen from the changes in our society, some of the difficulties of adjustment around the edges as we have continued to grow and as we deal with the shifts that by and large have been good but none the less have had some problems associated with them.

I want to point out some of the things, not by way of an all-inclusive list but by way of some illustrations of the problems. Obviously housing has to stand out, certainly in the riding of St. George, as a foremost issue of concern; both in terms of price, which has been spoken to, and in terms of supply. The two are obviously linked: the less housing that is built, the higher the price.

12:10 p.m.

Clearly, some of our problems have arisen from the economic and social changes in our society as we have seen them interacting. Our ageing population has none the less seen a continued high increase in household formation with a continued high demand for units. As well, the shifts in energy pricing, inflation and interest rates have seen a lessening desire on the part of many people who in the past were moving farther and farther away from the central city and now are wanting to return and to compete for scarce space and to deal with rare lands that are available for all of our uses.

We have seen a flow on from that, a change in our urban form. We have seen the traditional patterns of our cities that have their centre areas predominantly for commerce with ring upon concentric ring of residential area, all of which forms were developed around reliance on the automobile and an assumption that the only way we would get around in our cities was by automobile.

As we have seen again those changes in our economy and society that I spoke about earlier, we have seen as I mentioned a return to the city and we have seen a circumstance where the patterns of travel to work and return to residence simply will no longer tolerate a car-reliant society. We have also seen a continued congestion of our cities and pollution that comes from from one of the major polluters of our cities, namely, the internal combustion engine.

We have seen a continual effort on the part of our local governments to deal with the shifts and changes, but not always as quickly as necessary and not always as precisely as would be desired.

In particular, I am thinking of the stresses that are placed on some of our transit systems as we see the shift in the use of our cities.

As well, with our ageing population, and particularly with the inflation that we have experienced, we find a problem that results from the benefit of longevity of many of the people in our population. We find a problem that deals with their economic circumstances, with the problems of seniors who are retired and living on pensions or on their fixed incomes with the ravages of inflation that confronts them.

We also find a social problem that confronts us, the social problem of people who are healthier longer, who are living longer, who have had a tendency and a trend, which we in government have encouraged, of leaving their main careers earlier, of continuing to play a useful role in our society as vibrant and dynamic contributors to our society.

We have the concomitant problems of ensuring that our seniors will be able to maintain independence in their lives, to remain as independent as they wish for as long as they are able. These are some of the difficulties that we are seeing.

I might note that the problems of seniors are actually in large measure the problems of women, because most of our seniors today are women. The problems of women are not confined to the problems of those in their sunset years; the problems of women also flow right through our society and through all age groups.

We have seen a considerable change in the patterns of women following careers, of their entry and re-entry into the job market. We have seen, along with that, a very poor fit that has often arisen and particularly affected women between the skills they had acquired and the skills demanded in the jobs that are available.

We have seen a trend through our society over the years of a significant rise in single-parent families, a rise that has also meant that most of those families are mother-led. That trend also places yet another burden upon so many of our women of working age as they seek to adjust to the choices that are available to them of family and career, and as they realize that for so many who are single parents there is no choice of either/or, there is the necessity of both.

As well, we have seen shifts that have occurred from the changes I mentioned earlier in economy and society in the growth industries of the past. When I speak about growth industries that are going to have to make some very significant adjustments, I am not speaking, as one might think, of some widget maker out in the way. I am speaking of industries like education, which I think in fairness must be treated as an industry, facing considerable need for adjustment and radical review.

For example, in the riding of St. George alone, I look to the significant impact of the declining birthrate on the drop in enrolment and on the threat of closure of our schools. I look as well to the increases in labour unrest in our schools. I look to the concerns faced by the graduates who are finding that the curriculum in their schools and the training they have received do not always provide an adequate fit, as they enter the job market, with the jobs that are available.

As well, the area of education, by way of illustration of a growth industry, is being placed under fire even further by the singularly unfortunate initiatives that have been announced by the federal government in suggesting very sharp and severe cutbacks in the social spending envelope.

The other areas of adjustment that have occurred as we have seen changes in our society are perhaps not so obvious. One of the most unfortunate areas that I have had occasion to witness over the last several years in living here is that as we have seen a real drop in overt discrimination in our society we have seen an unfortunate increase in far more subtle forms of discrimination. We have seen the work of groups like the Ontario Human Rights Commission made increasingly more difficult as those few among us in Ontario resist the spirit of tolerance and compassion that was one of those aspects that brought me to this province, and they seek to find ways to move around the spirit of our laws if not the letter of our laws.

We have seen that some of those forms of subtle discrimination have carried over into other specific areas of the community. I note in particular—quite relevant, for example, to my riding of St. George—the very unhappy incidence of increases in police-community tension, increases from which this House in this session cannot turn aside.

This is not a full list of the problems and changes that have occurred, either in St. George or across Ontario. It is meant to be a representative list to give some notion to this assembly of some of the challenges that are facing us.

I must say that, having gone over some of the problems and having a number of them brought into particularly sharp focus in the recent

44-day exercise that all of us went through in St. George, I am very pleased to be rising in my place today to be seconding the motion to adopt the speech from the throne. I am very pleased because it is my view—and I made indirect reference to this in my opening remarks—that this government, this party and this Premier have the capacity and a proven record of dealing with the changes and problems in our society, and I am confident they will continue to do so in the future.

Let me review again for the House some of the areas that I think are worth reminding members of this Legislature of as we reflect upon some of the problems our society faces. Let us begin with housing. We have heard a lot of debate already about the things that are federal responsibilities. Frankly, I would be hard-pressed to have anybody on either side of this House suggest that housing is not very directly impacted by the monetary and fiscal policies of our federal government. It seems clear to me that is the case and, as I say, I do not think that is going to be disputed by any member of this assembly. In that regard, I would echo the call in the speech from the throne for a first ministers' conference to deal with matters of monetary and fiscal policy.

Having said that, in my view it is insufficient to simply wash my hands and say that there is an aspect to the housing problems that we confront that is intimately affected and influenced by national policy and simply to sit back and say it is up to the federal government to work. Clearly, it is up to the federal government to work, but there are a number of things particularly, and I use the illustration of housing, that can be done here in Ontario provincially and indeed have been done over the years.

12:20 p.m.

For example, I look to the introduction in the area of controlling prices to rent review. That has been the subject of considerable question and exchange already in the very early days of this House and no doubt will be the subject of continued discussion in the future. That is a program that has been under way and has been amended over time; it is a program that I consider to have been extremely successful in speaking to the purpose for which it was brought in, namely, to provide a dampening effect on rapidly increasing rents. I firmly support that program and will continue to do so.

I note as well the Ontario rental construction program which my colleague the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) made reference to in his speech. Our rental construction program has been so successful that an additional $21 million has been added to that program to stimulate development of rental construction by the private sector, enabling starts in this year alone to come up to nearly 15,000 residential units.

The private sector stimulus is not the only area of record of this government. It is noteworthy that it was the Progressive Conservative government that moved to understand and act upon the wisdom of the need for public, private and third sector or social housing, to work co-operatively and to all be strong if we are to see a genuine attack on the further supply of housing and if we are to see housing accommodation that is so needed being built.

I speak of the very strong tradition of the rapid approvals that have been provided by successive ministers of the crown over the years on this side of the House with respect to housing developments and in particular with respect to enabling legislation and amendments necessary in municipal acts to enable private co-operatives and municipal nonprofits to be organized and to get off the ground.

I note that the City of Toronto Nonprofit Housing Corporation, with which I was very much involved over the years that I spent at city hall, could not have begun had they not had the kind of full and determined support that we had from the Honourable John White when he was the minister and, I might add, from successive ministers.

The importance of third sector housing is seen very clearly in St. George. I invite those members who perhaps have not yet set foot into the northwest corner of University and Wellesley, where the riding begins, to go down to the St. Lawrence Market and to look at 44 acres of obsolete railway and warehousing land acquired and developed for nonprofit, private co-operative and private market housing accommodation. It is one of the most successful revitalizations we have seen on this continent of obsolete and outdated urban land, a project in a neighbourhood, in a community, which would not have been possible without the support of this government.

Indeed, that commitment and that understanding, that sensitivity—I might use that word again—to the blending of efforts on behalf of the public, private and third sectors was seen again when the Minister of Housing (Mr. Bennett) recently announced the Ontario community housing assistance program, which provides continued support for co-operatives and

nonprofits and which seeks to target assistance particularly to moderate accommodation that is to be provided and makes particular reference to assistance for families and rent-geared-to-income units.

It is clear to me that this government, through its initiatives in housing, has well recognized the critical role that municipalities have played and can play as we seek to encourage the additional supply of housing. It is, after all, the municipalities that provide, for example, the zoning permissions and the varieties of other infrastructures and services that are so essential to us.

It is interesting to note that the model on this continent for urban redevelopment, namely, the city of Toronto with its now fully approved central area plan that blends commercial, industrial and residential within the downtown, which was begun seven years ago in the city of Toronto when I was there, proceeded with full government support throughout the entire matter of consideration and approval.

There was full government support and commitment to ideas and notions about our urban areas that affected not merely housing but, the entire matter of form of our urban areas with its interconnection to transit, to recreation, to the entire quality of life. This proceeded with full government support at a time when there was sharp opposition from quarters that some on the other side of this House have often suggested always have their day and their sway.

It is clear to me that the kind of perception that drew me to stand for office in St. George as a member of this party under this leader was adequately and amply illustrated in the support that was provided in the approvals of the central area plan which, as I noted before, have become a model for the continent.

I speak too of the farsighted development and investment of this government in the Urban Transportation Development Corporation. Certainly, some things were hooted at and criticized at the time they came forward. In my view as a member for a downtown riding that is currently using many of the fruits of that corporation, it was indeed farsighted and valuable to all of us who are living in dense and complex urban areas in the 1980s.

I would look to the entry of the government into support of the intermediate capacity transit system. We are certainly going to be seeing them here in Toronto and I hope in other areas of this province as well. There has been support over the years for the GO commuter system. In the past year alone we will be looking at approximately $63.5 million of government expenditure.

As well, generally in the area of municipal transit, I note the government is expected to be expending something in the order of $178 million in assistance, both operating and capital, to municipal transit systems across this province. I am pleased to note nearly $100 million will be directed to the largest, the most densely populated and the oldest system, that of Metropolitan Toronto, the Toronto Transit Commission.

I very much welcome the initiatives indicated by the government to move into the electrification of our transit vehicles, electrification which will enable our transit vehicles to move more quietly, more efficiently and, I might add, to move with considerably less surface pollution occurring in our cities.

These are some of the areas that are perhaps in hard services, as one might describe it. There have been substantial proportions of the current provincial budget applied to the areas of social services. I will give some illustrations. For example, in education alone some $4 billion has been devoted in provincial expenditure. I would note for members of this assembly that $4 billion constitutes approximately 25 per cent of the province's expenditure budget. Nearly $190 million has gone into welfare assistance, some $478 million into family benefit assistance, and in health, a key area that affects us all, nearly $4.7 billion.

These are, again, only illustrations of expenditure in the social areas. They are important illustrations because they indicate the scope of commitment of this government to provide adequate and proper social services to the people in our society and of the full scope of the problem to maintain the support and commitment for which this government has been so rightly known.

I note in that regard that the initiatives announced in the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program in particular, with the focus on investment in growth industries of the future, particularly high technology and so forth, will be extremely important to all of us as we look at our social programs. It is the clear understanding and foresight of this government to secure the tax base of the future that is going to enable us to continue to provide the social services that are equally needed by members in our society.

We have seen a significant record of this

government in services to seniors. I noted in the question period earlier this day there was some measure of debate and exchange on some of the aspects of at least one of the programs that has been brought forward. But I would note that the singular aspect that should be coming out of that exchange has been the willingness of this government to attend to the changes in society, to review programs and to amend and alter them as time and circumstances appear to require.

12:30 p.m.

I think that makes good sense, notwithstanding that I will be looking forward as eagerly as some other members of this assembly to the reviews of that program, as well as others, with possible suggestions for amendments, amelioration and change as we proceed into the future.

I note as well that we have, for example, a very significant investment in the Ontario health insurance plan, 24 per cent of whose users receive their assistance premium free. The majority of those, of course, are seniors.

I would also note the considerable support this government has provided to senior citizens housing, particularly senior citizens apartments. It is a support which provides for subsidized units which enable, among other things, a substantial independence of living of so many of our seniors who are on fixed incomes and who simply would not be able to maintain their independence of living, either through reliance upon their present income without support or, perhaps, more unfortunately as well, through the breakdown in the extended family and the growth we have seen in a turning away from older members of our own families, thrusting them on to their own devices.

I would note similar reviews that have occurred in the area of chronic care need, to ensure that the investments we have and the beds we are using are being used most efficiently and occupied by those most in need. There is the expansion and replacement of nursing home beds, the upgrading and expanding of homes for the aged and, of course, the proposals for pension reform that we have seen most recently in the report of the royal commission.

I am pleased at the combination we see from those few remarks of a record of attention and interest in these areas by the government that is continued through the speech from the throne that opened this thirty-second parliament.

I would note as well the history the government has had in the area of day care. Certainly that was an issue of particular concern to me and my constituents in St. George. It is worthy of note that in the last year there was an increase of some 30 per cent in that budget, bringing total expenditures to the order of $63 million. They were increases which in the last decade have amounted to something in excess of 1,400 per cent. In 1979 alone, Ontario with approximately one third of the population of Canada had approximately two thirds of the licensed day care spaces.

I am interested as well in the references in the speech to the work of the women's bureau, in the Ministry of Labour, that has created new approaches to day care that will be considered. I think it is extremely important that no one on any side of this House become trapped in the notion that there is one way and one way alone to provide care for our children or to provide the support that is necessary for women who are entering or re-entering the work place.

I would note, for example, that we should be looking at the possibility of utilizing our seniors who, I noted earlier, face a considerable problem in searching for and finding continued useful roles in our society.

Of particular personal interest to me, I welcome the initiatives which I expect to be debating in the near future on expansion of place-of-work day care, having been involved as I was in the first place-of-work day care in Ontario established at city hall and opened in September 1980. It is an area that I certainly will be giving considerable time and attention to.

I also note the reviews that have been under way in education which, as I noted earlier, is a growth industry which will require substantial adjustments.

I am very pleased that we are seeing the results of reviews and that this government has had the strength of conviction not to respond to the easy path when we came into trouble in some of our areas, particularly in education, by simply throwing money at the problems. I would note that it takes considerably more strength as a responsible government to step back and review with some care the kind of changes that should occur in the future to respond to changes that have occurred in our society over the last few years. I welcome, therefore, Mr. Speaker, the reports of the secondary education review project, the Ryerson commission on polytechnic education and the committee on the future role of universities in Ontario. All of them are expected to be placing their final reports before us in a very few months.

I note as well the initiatives in BILD, which

might not normally be thought of as initiatives, that are fine tuning that education industry; but in my mind they are, and they are speaking particularly to the initiatives in BILD for training and, notably, retraining of those who are currently in the work place or those who are re-entering the work force after a time.

I would refer as well, with some considerable pride, to the aspects of the speech from the throne that were underlined very significantly this morning by the Minister of Labour and the amendments proposed by this government to the Human Rights Code of Ontario.

I noted in my earlier remarks, Mr. Speaker, one of the areas of problems we have faced in our society is the growth of much more subtle forms of discrimination that have affected so many of us. I am extremely pleased to rise in support of those amendments which I believe will continue to make Ontario a leader in the protection of human rights.

I am also very pleased to refer members of this assembly to the efforts that were made in the closing days of the previous parliament to increase the budget for the Ontario Human Rights Commission to expand the numbers of investigators and to improve the hearing process of complaints brought before it.

I very much look forward to the debate on the Human Rights Code amendments that have been brought before this House and, in particular, I look forward as the member for St. George and as a member of this government party to a continued examination of the changes in our society and continuation to review our Human Rights Code and the operation of our human rights commission to make the changes that are necessary in order to ensure that Ontario remains a leader in the protection of human rights for all of its people in all sectors of its society.

I would as well point members to the very fine work of the Ministry of Labour in introducing equal pay for substantially equal work. I was extremely pleased at the introduction in that area of the work that has occurred in the affirmative action program. I also note that the women's bureau in particular is currently monitoring the legislation dealing with equal pay for work of equal value that now exists federally and in Quebec. I might say that I look forward eagerly indeed to the results and fruits of that monitoring and I, for one, will be most interested in working with the women's bureau and with other members on both sides of this House to find a fair and effective method of implementing the principle of equal pay for work of equal value to which all of us subscribe.

I would as well indicate my pleasure with the commitment that has been indicated by this government to reintroduce civilian review of police, particularly in Metropolitan Toronto. I was appalled at the display of crass partisan politics that occurred in this chamber last spring when that bill for civilian review was introduced in this House. I would note there was a refusal by those opposite to permit that bill to go to second reading and, indeed, to go to committee for full and complete discussion—discussion by people throughout Metropolitan Toronto who are particularly and directly concerned with the issue; discussion I might say by those within the city of Toronto and particularly within the riding of St. George.

I note that the introduction of this bill having to occur as it does now, in 1981, has foreclosed some of the opportunities that would have been available to the people in the city of Toronto and the riding of St. George, had there been a willingness on the part of members of this House to have stopped for a moment their partisan approach to the very serious matter of civilian review and to have seen a bill in place as we proceeded through the last several months. Mr. Speaker, I am indeed pleased with the commitment of this government to reintroduce that legislation, and I trust this time it will proceed to royal assent.

12:40 p.m.

In summary, the remarks I have made should not be misconstrued to suggest either that I have covered all of the difficulties we face or that I have reviewed all of the things I would note as being positive actions by this government. The speech from the throne itself is not an all-encompassing review of the full numbers of actions to be taken by this government or initiatives to be brought before this House, but rather a cataloguing of a possible legislative agenda.

It is in that spirit, which is very much compatible with the traditions on this side of the House, of carefully reviewing the circumstances that we face in our changing society and responding to those circumstances with compassion, strength and leadership, that I am indeed pleased to be seconding the motion to adopt the speech from the throne, and commend that to members of this assembly.

On motion by Mr. Ruston, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

CONTENTS

Friday, April 24, 1981

Statements by the ministry

Elgie, Hon. R. G., Minister of Labour:
Human rights . . . 59

Henderson, Hon. L. C., Minister of Agriculture and Food:
Interest rates . . . 58

Walker, Hon. G. W., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Provincial Secretary for Justice:
Corporations legislation . . . 57

Oral questions

Ashe, Hon. G. L., Minister of Revenue:
Aid to pensioners, Mr. Smith, Mr. MacDonald, Ms. Copps . . . 62

Bennett, Hon. C. F., Minister of Housing:
Housing prices, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ruprecht, Mr. Wildman . . . 64

Davis, Hon. W. G., Premier:
Nakina fire, Mr. Smith, Mr. Foulds, Mr. Nixon . . . 60
Aid to pensioners, Mr. Smith, Mr. MacDonald, Ms. Copps . . . 62
Appointment of former minister, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Smith . . . 65
Inquests, Mr. Mackenzie . . . 69

Henderson, Hon. L. C., Minister of Agriculture and Food:
Alfred Agricultural College, Mr. Boudria . . . 69

Miller, Hon. F. S., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics:
Pensions, Mr. McClellan, Mr. Peterson . . . 69

Wells, Hon. T. L., Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs:
Regional government studies, Mr. Epp, Ms. Bryden . . . 67

Bills; first readings

Business Corporations Act, Bill 6, Mr. Walker . . . 70

Human Rights Code, Bill 7, Mr. Elgie . . . 70

Use of members' names, comments by Mr. McClellan, Mr. Nixon, Mr. Wells, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Breaugh, Mr. Foulds . . . 70

Resolutions

Standing committees, resolution 1, Mr. Wells, Mr. Nixon, Mr. Foulds, Mr. Breaugh, Mr. Sterling; concurred in . . . 72

Standing committees, resolution 2, Mr. Wells, Mr. Breaugh, Mr. G. W. Taylor; concurred in . . . 77

Throne speech debate

Ms. Fish . . . 78

Adjournment . . . 84

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Ashe, Hon. G. L.; Minister of Revenue (Durham West PC)
Bennett, Hon. C. F.; Minister of Housing (Ottawa South PC)
Boudria, D (Prescott-Russell L)
Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
Breithaupt, J. R. (Kitchener L)
Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
Conway, S. G. (Renfrew North L)
Copps, S. M. (Hamilton Centre L)
Davis, Hon. W. G.; Premier (Brampton PC)
Elgie, Hon. R. G.; Minister of Labour (York East PC)
Epp, H. A. (Waterloo North L)
Fish, S. A. (St. George PC)
Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
Grossman, Hon. L. S.; Minister of Industry and Tourism (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
Henderson, Hon. L. C.; Minister of Agriculture and Food (Lambton PC)
MacDonald, D. C. (York South NDP)
Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)
McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
Miller, Hon. F. S.; Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics (Muskoka PC)
Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
Peterson, D. R. (London Centre L)
Riddell, J. (Huron-Middlesex L)
Ruprecht, T. (Parkdale L)
Smith, S. L. (Hamilton West L)
Sterling, Hon. N. W.; Minister without Portfolio (Carleton-Grenville PC)
Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Taylor, G. W. (Simcoe Centre PC)
Turner, Hon. J. M.; Speaker (Peterborough PC)
Walker, Hon. G. W.; Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Provincial Secretary for Justice (London South PC)
Wells, Hon. T. L.; Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Scarborough North PC)
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)

Publications

Ontario

No. 4

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



First Session, Thirty-Second Parliament
Monday, April 27, 1981

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

LIBRARY
MAY

Hansard subscription price is $15.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Central Purchasing Service, Print Procurement Section, Ministry of Government Services, 8th Floor, Ferguson Block, Parliament Buildings, Toronto M7A 1N3. Phone (416) 965-2238.

Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 1981

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' INDEMNITIES

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House that I have today laid upon the table the fourth report of the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses with respect to indemnities and allowances of members of the Legislative Assembly.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

OHIP BENEFITS

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, later this week I will sign an agreement with the president of the Ontario Medical Association covering OHIP benefits payable for physicians' services for the coming year. It is based on the recommendation of Professor Paul Weiler who, as chairman of the Joint Committee on Physicians' Compensation for Professional Services, has produced a fact finders' report which I will table at the appropriate time in today's proceedings.

The agreement provides for an overall adjustment of 14.75 per cent in the OHIP schedule of benefits. The detailed adjustments of the individual items will be made by the Ontario Medical Association subject to the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Both Dr. MacMillan, the president of the OMA, and I would like to publicly commend Professor Weiler and the members of the committee for their report, which we believe will contribute to the high level of medical care which we all enjoy in this province.

ORAL QUESTIONS

TESTING OF PESTICIDES

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of the Environment in his new capacity. Would he comment to the House on the action his ministry will take in the light of the information revealed over the weekend that 89 pesticides, including many herbicides commonly used by the farmers of the province, have not been adequately tested? As a matter of fact, the testing has been shown to be fraudulent, or at least questionable.

How can we assure the users of these herbicides and those who would be exposed to them in this province that, in fact, they are not undertaking any substantial or undue risk?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, as the honourable member may recall, this is not the first time concern has been raised with respect to this particular list of pesticides and herbicides. The matter arose, first of all, some few years ago and we have had ongoing communication with the federal government which, as the member may also be aware, is responsible for listing or not listing the particular chemicals in question.

The difficulty we have had in this regard relates primarily to the availability of information from the federal government. On numerous occasions we have requested specific information about the type of testing that had been done on the various chemicals. This information was submitted to the federal government for its consideration at the time of the original decision being made with respect to listing, and we have repeatedly been denied that information, most recently by way of a letter from the Honourable Monique Begin, the Minister of National Health and Welfare. She had been advised by the federal crown law officers that, because of the nature of the information submitted, it was confidential and protected. We have, therefore, only been able to receive assurances from the Minister of National Health and Welfare that its efforts are continuing to validate the testing that had been done, to try to identify if deficiencies in the testing exist.

As the member may know, the list appears to be being whittled down. Originally, the list we received contained some 97 chemicals; the most current one we have in our possession has 89, and I understand that now there is some discussion of the figure 79. But we are awaiting an updated list from the federal government.

The information we have at the moment, as I say, contains 89 and we requested, as recently again as this morning, information as to whether

the figure 79 indicates that a further 10 have been tested, or checked rather, and the information reviewed and the list reduced.

We have also been requested by the federal government not to take precipitate action. I am obviously very much concerned about what, if any, effects there might be in a situation like this, but the Minister of National Health and Welfare has, in correspondence with my predecessor, indicated the concern about precipitate action and the impact it might have upon food supplies in this country.

We do not, ourselves, have the information on which to do any validation. The federal government has brought together a staff of experts, toxicologists from a variety of federal departments, and they are working on this at the present time.

If the member is asking me specifically what assurances I can give, frankly, the only assurances I can give are those the federal government has given. I can assure the member that it is an area in which I have a very deep concern about the question of safety. I will continue to review and monitor it as much as I can on a regular and daily basis.

2:10 p.m.

Mr. Nixon: Is the minister not aware that farmers such as myself would have read that list in the Globe and Mail this morning and picked out the chemicals we ourselves are ordering right now? Can he not give us more assurance, particularly through his advisory committee which has known about this for three years, that the officials of his ministry have done more than just sit back and complain about other levels of government not doing the testing that originally was done by the American parent companies in a fraudulent or, at least, a completely inadequate way?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I think the member ought to use the word in the singular. I believe the tests that are in question and about which questions have been raised relate to the activity of one particular testing company in the United States.

Mr. Nixon: They did most of the testing.

Hon. Mr. Norton: That is correct. I believe they did all of those on the list. The problem with respect to our own advisory committee is our getting the necessary information to do any evaluation, because that information is in the possession of the federal government. It is precisely that information which we have not been provided with, so that our advisory committee has been handicapped in terms of passing any assessment such as the member requests.

The closest I can come, or that my predecessor was able to come, to an assurance in correspondence with the federal minister is simply that there is no evidence of any harmful effect. They are now still in the process of checking, literally I understand, rooms full of test material and data that was submitted to them.

ONTARIO HYDRO RENTAL SPACE

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I have a question I would like to direct to the Premier on one of his favourite subjects, which is the provision of suitable staff facilities for the administration of Ontario Hydro.

Does it not bother him a bit that Ontario Hydro is leasing additional facilities in downtown Toronto at the corner of Bay and Dundas streets at $21 a foot to house an additional 1,000 to 1,500 employees when, over the past two years, it has been trying valiantly to rent its former headquarters which it abandoned some years ago and which they renovated for $5 million? Hydro has been trying to rent that at $14 a foot.

Would the Premier not feel there has been inadequate planning going back, let us say, a certain number of years but certainly in the last few months, which is going to cost the consumers of electricity funds they should not be called upon to pay?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister of Energy (Mr. Welch) is quite prepared to deal with that question. He may be here later on.

I can only go by press reports, but my analysis of those reports indicated that Ontario Hydro entered into certain leases for the renovated old building at a time when the determination to move ahead with or expedite Darlington generating station, as requested by the government of Ontario, had not been made. As a result of that it is necessary, I gather from the press reports, for Ontario Hydro to house some of the people who will be involved in expediting Darlington in accommodation other than the accommodation it owns, which it has renovated and leased.

Mr. Nixon: Since the government has on two previous occasions expedited and then slowed down Darlington, why should the most recent expedition have electrified the leaders of Ontario Hydro to the extent they should have undertaken this when, even if it were finally decided the government had made up its mind it would not do another flip-flop on that matter, if they

were going to hire additional technical people there is no reason for them to be in an office just under the Premier's window?

They could very well have been established at Pickering or somewhere else where they could get suitable facilities for less than $21 a foot. Why do they have to be maintained in downtown Toronto, which is usually reserved for Tory fund raisers and people like that?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I recall during the election campaign the leader of the Liberal Party was saying how little association the Tory party had with the business community and how he was going to sweep Bay Street. It is quite obvious that he swept Bay Street and lost everything else in the process. In fact, he is lucky he did not lose another half a dozen members in the process with the way he conducted his campaign. But we will raise that on another occasion.

I think it is fair to state as well that I can see a great deal from my window—I know when the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk pulls up to the building in his car—but I really cannot see the corner of Dundas and Bay from my window; it is not right under my window.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Don't you come by car? Well, I do too. The member has driven by me on occasion. He even waves on occasion as he goes by. His seatbelt is always done up and I have to make this abundantly clear. It is usually within the limits. I don't mean the seatbelt but the speed.

Mr. Breithaupt: —stretched to the limit.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Is the member saying his colleague has to have his seatbelt stretched to the limit? I was talking about him, not me.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You are quite right, Mr. Speaker.

Also I would have to go back in history. I do not think the government really has flip-flopped on Darlington nearly to the same extent as the Liberal Party of Ontario has flip-flopped on just about every energy issue that I know.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) should be the last one to talk about energy. He got his party into a lot of trouble with his energy statements which conflicted with his leader's policy and which conflicted with every one of the other Liberal candidates.

Anyway, back to the question, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Energy will have all of the details and the explanation for the member.

Mr. MacDonald: The government's request to Hydro to accelerate the construction of Darlington is only going to increase the startup of Darlington by six months. And this planned expansion of personnel and staff by Hydro is to deal not only with Darlington, which isn't affected seriously by that six-month acceleration, but Bruce and Pickering as well.

So may I put to the Premier the question that was put earlier: What is there new in the picture that could not have been anticipated six months or a year ago before the government requested Darlington to be accelerated? If done then it would have been able to put this added staff in the old building at $14 a square foot, rather than into new quarters at $21 a square foot.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, the House leader for the New Democratic Party asked why I didn't say at the beginning of my answer to the supplementary question what I said at the end. But in that the member has asked the same question as the acting Leader of the Opposition, I would hope the House leader will understand that his member has asked a question that is really very similar.

I would only say to the Hydro expert in the New Democratic ranks that the Minister of Energy I am sure will give him a totally adequate answer as Hydro has answered every question during his chairmanship of that committee—as I understand it, usually to his total satisfaction.

Mr. J. Reed: Will the Premier tell us if this space is required specifically for the speedup of Darlington or is the requirement for other staff additions in order to catch up on work which was ordered stopped last fall?

While he is ruminating on that, could he undertake to find out how much empty space is still available in the original Hydro building?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I would be delighted to get all of this information. I have said three times this afternoon that the Minister of Energy will have this information for the members.

I know the member for Halton-Burlington said to the press a few days ago he would ask this question immediately he had an opportunity and this is his first opportunity because he has not been here yet, but his acting leader has already asked the question for him. I would be delighted to find out that information for him.

I do not know of any project that Hydro is

starting again. My own guess is, as the member for York South has said, that all of the personnel will not be directly involved with Darlington per se. There are other Hydro activities, including some of the—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The power lines? The power lines will ultimately be up and the members opposite will all be enthusiastic in supporting their specific location whenever that location is determined. The only regret I have is that I do not think the location will go through London Centre, so the member for London Centre won't have anything to say.

HOUSING PRICES

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Housing about the problems that people on average incomes are having in buying homes in Metropolitan Toronto, including the fringe areas.

2:20 p.m.

Last week the minister thought the problem of affordability was restricted to core areas of the city. I would like to ask the minister how it is then that half the families in Metropolitan Toronto last year earned less than $27,000 a year in family income, and of the houses that changed hands in March of this year, only 17 per cent were sold at a price they could afford.

Does that mean that those families earning less than $27,000 a year are not to be able to have a home of their own? What action does this government intend to take in order to ensure that people on modest incomes, and not just those with high incomes, can have a home?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, in order to asssess the situation which the leader of the third party is speaking about today, one has to consider whether the individual is a first-time home owner or is in the market for a second or third home. Unless one has all the facts and figures, it is very difficult to say that somebody with an income of $27,000 cannot afford some of the units which are available in this market.

In March, 1,700 out of some 5,000 units which were sold on the multiple listing service were sold at less than $60,000. In the same period, 311 people in this area bought homes at prices in the range of $40,000 or less. There are other statistics I could go through, but I am sure the members of this House are familiar with them.

We are not trying to exclude any particular income group from buying units. I have said before and I repeat that I do not believe that this government or any government has the right to try to interfere in the rights of the market to flow in accordance with the economy.

Just two and one half years ago, members on both sides of this House were complaining to me about developers in their communities going bankrupt because they could not move the stock which they had built. Some of them were selling at far below what it had cost them to build.

I think the question that is being asked has a number of ramifications and that it is simplistic to say that somebody with an income of $27,000 cannot afford to buy a home. I think one has to know a little more about that individual's financial position and whether it is a first time or second time purchase.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Last week, the minister said that affordability was restricted to the core areas of the city. Is he aware that in not one of the 50 areas into which Metropolitan Toronto is divided by the multiple listing service of the Toronto Real Estate Board was the average price of property sold below the $50,000 mark? Since the average home in any of those areas was not accessible to families earning less than the median income in Metro, surely there is an affordability crisis.

I ask the minister again if he is prepared to bring in a land speculation tax to stop the dizzy rise in the price of property. Is he prepared to take any other measures in order to protect ordinary working families whose only sin is that they didn't buy a house before the prices started to skyrocket?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, I will repeat what I said last week. The leader of the third party knows very well that to start talking about averages is not at all a realistic situation.

I met with the Toronto Real Estate Board this morning and reviewed with them their press releases on a monthly basis. To try to talk about averages really makes very little sense. They admit frankly that if you took an average of the real estate sold in the core area of this community and compared it with the average of the balance of the real estate that was sold, particularly single family units, there would be a drastic difference between those averages.

Those averages tell us virtually nothing. They tell us that perhaps the overall price of real estate is escalating as a result of the downtown prices. It is no different from averaging the price of a Volkswagen and that of a Rolls-Royce. It tells one extremely little.

I am not going to get into an argument about

average real estate prices on homes because there is no rationalization for it at all in this market.

Mr. Speaker: Before continuing with question period, I would like to make an announcement.

As honourable members know, the Sixth Commonwealth Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers is being held in Canada. I am sure the House will wish to extend a warm welcome to the many Presidents, Speakers and Clerks of parliaments who are in our galleries today. Their numbers do not permit individual introductions but I know you will give them a very warm welcome.

[Applause.]

HOUSING PRICES
(continued)

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, if I may resume my question: Is the Minister of Housing not aware that according to the Toronto Real Estate Board the average price of homes sold in the east districts of Metropolitan Toronto in the first three months of this year was $73,989, and that the average price of the houses sold in the west district—in both cases excluding the central core—was $74,246? Is the minister not aware that to buy homes at that level at today's interest rates one requires an income of about $40,000 a year?

I ask the minister again, how can a working family earning $15,000, $20,000 or $22,000 a year afford that kind of housing when it is the only kind of housing available in Metropolitan Toronto?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, I refer to the fact that averages are just one of the things that can be so misleading in the market of today.

Let us just look for a moment—and I will take a few moments of the House's time—at the multiple listing service listings and the real estate sales in March of this year.

Under $40,000 there were 311 sold, as compared to 184 in 1980; between $40,000 and $45,000, 228; between $45,000 and $50,000, 360 sold in the month of March in the current year. For $50,000 to $55,000, 377; between $55,000 and $60,000, 435; between $60,000 and $65,000, 374 units; between $65,000 and $70,000, 411; and between $70,000 and $80,000, 636. That is at the limit the leader of the third party is talking about at the moment—the average individual, the average price. There are many that fall well below the average price and which are available to the average income earner in this province.

Mr. Ruprecht: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Is the minister aware that the 1981 inventory of new houses ready for occupancy is down 68 per cent in the last four years, and that the Ontario overall starts last year were the lowest in 14 years?

Is the minister still saying cheerfully, and I quote an article from the Toronto Star, "The day is fast coming when we could very well recommend to the Premier that the Ministry of Housing could disappear"? Is this the kind of policy the minister has been propagating in the last three days with his nonanswers and his obfuscations, as I said earlier? Is he indicating to this House with this kind of policy that he wants to disappear, not only from his own seat here but from the very ministry of which he is the head?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, as I said a few moments ago, I recall over the last two and a half or three years in this House there were many problems in the construction industry with developers in London, Hamilton, Ottawa and in this particular market of Ontario that had more stock and inventory than they could possibly move. A number of them had to make assignments and went into receivership because there were no purchasers.

The ambition and desire of that industry—and I support it—was to try to move that dead inventory they had at some considerable expense to them. Frankly, the government through its mortgage corporation and so on tried to assist a number of them to stay in the business of the development of housing until things turned around.

The member speaks of their inventory being down at the moment. I recognize that fact, that the inventory in the last relatively short period of time has moved exceedingly well, but, I am told, there is still in the Metropolitan Toronto area something in the range of about a nine and a half month supply and in the outlying areas of Ontario something in the range of a three and a half month supply of housing available to the market at this time.

Mr. Philip: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: As the minister who only a few months ago appeared before a committee of the Legislature and decried the creating of ghettoes for the poor, how can the minister advocate a "no action" that in fact creates the kind of ghettos for the rich where only the rich can afford to live in downtown Toronto?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, I have to say I find that question completely irrelevant to this discussion today.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, we will come back to this, because the Minister of Housing is abdicating his responsibility and so is the government.

OHIP BENEFITS

Mr. Cassidy: I have a question for the Minister of Health, Mr. Speaker, arising out of the announcement of the settlement of physicians' salaries made in the House today.

According to the Weiler report, the increase in the price schedule that has now been agreed upon will generate an average increase in net income of $10,500 for full-time practitioners in Ontario. Since Mr. Weiler continues by saying that if the historical two per cent rate of increase in physician utilization continues unabated, the actual income increase will be closer to $12,000 in net income this year. Would the minister tell us whether we can assume that the doctors have agreed to terminate extra billing and opting out, and if not, given the generosity of this settlement, why not?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, we have discussed the latter frequently, and I think the honourable member understands why not, and the answer to the former is no.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, since the doctors' increase of $12,000 a year is equal to almost the entire annual earnings of the average hospital worker in Ontario, could the minister explain why the government did not insist in its negotiations with doctors that if they wanted to have a major increase in incomes and a catch-up, which is what they were seeking, from what they were getting before, the people of Ontario had a right to a quid pro quo, and specifically to the assurance that when they go to the doctor they will not be billed extra by the doctor because he has opted out?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, as the honourable member will recall, we have discussed this matter in this House on a number of occasions over the last three years. On all such occasions I have indicated to the honourable member that in my view, and in that of my government, to follow the course of action he recommends would lead to a very serious disruption of our medicare plan, one which, in my view, would be irreversible—not unlike what happened to his favourite province of Saskatchewan.

Second, I would point out to the honourable member that the government has been able, by means of working with the profession, to bring opting out in the province down steadily. In fact, in March, opting out dropped again, so the effective rate of opting out now is somewhere around seven per cent when one considers the percentage of the claims on the plan.

It is still my view that to follow the course of action the honourable member recommends would lead to the kind of ongoing confrontations, such as we have seen in other jurisdictions, which only undermine the quality of the health care system and lead to ongoing trench warfare which the public can only lose.

I would point out, while we are talking about the stability of the system, the kind of thing the honourable member proposed during the election campaign, of giving the doctors the right to strike, would do anything but stabilize our medicare system.

Mr. McClellan: The doctors do have the right to strike now, if I am not mistaken.

Supplementary to the Minister of Health, Mr. Speaker: In view of the fact that according to the ministry's figures—and the most recent figures I have, I am afraid, are May 1980, and I would be happy to be proved wrong, but assuming these figures are still valid—there are no opted-in anaesthetists in Middlesex, Nipissing or Perth; there are no ophthalmologists in the plan in Etobicoke, Sudbury or Victoria county; there are no opted-in urologists in Peel, Halton, York region, Wellington or Etobicoke; and in Peterborough, Peel and Grey there is not a single orthopaedic surgeon still practising within the plan, can the minister tell us whether the announcement he has made today will make the slightest bit of difference in that thoroughly appalling situation?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Let me point out, Mr. Speaker, the honourable member perpetuates the folly of looking at the percentage of doctors billing the plan as the relevant standard. It is not the relevant standard. One has to look at the percentage of the claims on the plan which are extra billed, now at about 350,000 a day, which is down around seven per cent.

The fact that a physician is nominally opted out does not mean he is billing all of his claims at rates in excess of OHIP. There are a great many physicians in this province who have never been opted in and have always billed at, or close to, the OHIP rates. So one ends up with only about seven per cent of claims extra billed, and many of those are extra billed a nominal amount.

Second, because of settlements in the last couple of years we have been able to bring back into the plan, on a participating basis, an opting-in basis if you will, a great many physicians. That includes specialists as well as family practitioners, and I am optimistic that, just as in the last few years, the settlement we have arrived at will result in many more coming back in. There is no problem of access to the system.

Mr. Nixon: What about the commitment I seem to recall the minister making in the previous session when this matter was raised, that all public hospitals would have the basic specialities manned by doctors who would accept OHIP fees?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I think by and large that commitment is being lived up to. There have been a few isolated problems and we have again reminded the hospitals, which we rely on to work with their physicians, of this. Where we have individual complaints, which we do get from time to time, or complaints through the Ontario Medical Association, I think we have been able to work them out, with very few exceptions.

ASTRA/RE-MOR

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations regarding Astra Trust and Re-Mor Investement Management Corporation.

It was the recommendation of the standing committee on administration of justice on the last day before the dissolution of the House that: "The committee regrets it has been unable to complete its inquiry. It believes a great deal of information remains to be placed on the public record, information which would clarify what went wrong in the Montemurro affair and why."

In view of the fact the committee recommended its inquiry be continued and completed should the Legislature and committee be dissolved, would the minister assure the House he will refer the Astra Trust/Re-Mor matter back to the justice committee forthwith, in order that the investigation can be continued?

If he is prepared to do so, would he also assure the House that all the documents secured for the committee through the Speaker's warrants, after considerable discussion and fight with the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), will be provided willingly to the committee so it can complete its investigation in an appropriate fashion?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I am not able to give either assurance. The matter will be considered on the overall question.

Matters that relate to mortgage brokers and other forms of licensing will be considered by the government in the next few months. It will take some particular form, but at this moment we do not know the form it will take. I would be interested in the member's observations on it. The preamble he has made this afternoon is an observation on it, but in relation to the committee itself, that committee, of course, came to a conclusion at the end of the last Legislature and presumably that is where it now stands.

Mr. Bradley: If this matter is referred back to the committee through procedures available to members of this House, would the minister assure members of the House that all the necessary documents would then be provided willingly by the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations and any of its agencies as recommended under the Speaker's warrant?

Would he assure us that, despite the fact he now has a majority in this Legislature even though 56 per cent of the people of Ontario who voted did not vote for his party, he is still prepared to provide those documents for the committee willingly to show his good faith to all the people of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Walker: If the matter were to be considered by that committee, if it ever were to be referred back to that committee, if it were to be restruck under similar terms, and if the matters referred to it were similar to what the matters were when the committee was originally struck or originally charged with the problem, then undoubtedly it would have those papers.

We are not talking at this moment about whether that would be referred to the committee. The real question at the moment is now before courts and will be dealt with in that way. The matter of mortgage brokers and their relationship to the government, and the relationship of the government and the mortgage broker licence to the people, is another matter that will have to be considered in future. It may involve a committee and it may not.

2:40 p.m.

Mr. Swart: Supplementary to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, Mr. Speaker: Recognizing that interim report recommended compensation to the investors, and recognizing the Premier has stated that the investors will be compensated if negligence is proved, he must be

aware that section 8 of the Act states there can be no liability on the part of the officer of the government or, in fact, the government itself, unless bad faith is proved, which is a very different thing to negligence. Will he say to this House that he is prepared to waive that section of the act so that just negligence has to be proved and they will then be compensated?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, that very question was, in essence, posed to the federal government during a period of time when negotiations were under consideration. The fact of the matter is that the federal government advised us we would have to respond to all our defences or they would not be prepared to participate in any particular sharing of the expenses. I would think it is up to our friends across there in the Liberal Party to perhaps put a little heat on their kissing cousins in Ottawa to solve this problem.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Minister of Revenue (Mr. Ashe) has the answer to a previously asked question.

AID TO PENSIONERS

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, on Friday last the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps) asked the following question in the form of a supplementary: "Is the minister also seeking, as is the case in some instances, a rebate on a prorated basis for those people who have died during the last half of 1980?" Of course, the question had reference to the property tax grant.

The response, Mr. Speaker: In the case of a pensioner who died after he had applied for the 1980 property tax grant, the grant is not prorated. Where death occurred in 1980 after the July 1 implementation date of the grant program, but before the pensioner had applied for the grant, the estate of the deceased is entitled to a 1980 grant on a prorated basis, with the calculation based on occupancy cost attributable to the portion of the year the deceased was alive.

If there is a surviving spouse who is also 65 years of age or older during 1980, occupancy cost up to the date of death is divided between the estate of the deceased and the surviving spouse, keeping in mind that in many instances the estate and the survivor are one and the same. The surviving spouse can claim his or her own grant based on 50 per cent of the occupancy cost prior to the death, plus any occupancy cost incurred following the spouse's death.

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Will the minister explain why the additional cheques were sent out to the people in regard to whom his ministry had to take such Draconian action to get the first cheques back that were sent out in error?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: The member for Brant--Oxford-Norfolk is not referring to death; he is referring to the ones that were sent again. I think I answered that question last Friday.

As I indicated to the House at that time, over half a million cheques were dispensed earlier this month to seniors who had received, or were on the list to have received, grants last year. In some instances, it would appear to be a relatively small number.

Some of those who had received grants in error last year—albeit they did apply for them, probably in all good faith—did receive a supplementary 1980 interim grant. They had, in the meantime, been contacted by way of a letter which indicated that they had in error received a 1980 grant, and because of computer programming, it might be the case—I quote a specific paragraph from the letter they received: "Because interim grants are based on grants made the previous year, you may receive a 1981 interim property tax grant. If you do, please return it to us for cancellation."

There were people—there is no doubt about it—who had not been pulled out of the computer programming, but rather than hold up the system, hold up the 530,000 people who were anticipating these cheques, some of this did happen. Again, they have been notified and repayment or the return of the cheque is not anticipated to be a problem.

UREA-FORMALDEHYDE FOAM INSULATION

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health and it concerns urea-formaldehyde foam insulation in Ontario homes. In view of the health hazard that is becoming increasingly connected to this insulation, in view of the statement by the federal Minister of Health that she has discharged her responsibilities by banning the further use and by informing the public, and in view of the moral and legal responsibilities the minister opposite has as Minister of Health, will he commence a program at once of testing for formaldehyde gas in all homes in this province which have this foam insulation?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, the advice I

have had from the federal government is to the effect that the expert medical committee that assisted the federal minister in the evaluation of this material has not as yet determined that it is in fact an actual or potential hazard. It has apparently indicated the need for further information.

We are in touch with the federal authorities. In the meantime, we have kept the local health departments informed, the 43 municipal health units, as we have been receiving information from the federal authorities over the last number of months, going back to December when they put on the temporary ban and since then the permanent ban. We have made the municipal units aware of the availability of assistance from the Ministry of Labour to offer them technical assistance in dealing with individual complaints.

At this point I don't believe the federal government has completely discharged its responsibilities. There are a lot of unanswered questions, and we will be pursuing the matter with them.

Mr. Swart: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: May I send to the minister a letter from Mr. Paul Toderick of 765 Church Street in Fenwick whose family has had considerable health problems?

He will note this contains two reports. The minister will note the one report, dated March 17, 1981, and signed by the medical officer of health for the Niagara region, which states that tests taken for formaldehyde gas in Mr. Toderick's home show levels 30 times the limits recommended in the Canadian ambient air standards. He will note the other report, signed by the previous medical officer of health for the Niagara region, showed the minister and his government knew of these dangers as early as December 1979.

At that time the medical officer of health stated—the minister will read this in the report—that whenever a report of suspected formaldehyde release is received, the Minister of Health can order the Ministry of Environment to conduct tests. They may not want to be involved in homes, but their laboratory is obliged to assess.

Would the minister not think this risk, as documented by this letter and other letters that I have, is serious enough that the ministry should do the investigations into every home that has this foam installed in the walls, so that this kind of health hazard, which has now been documented fairly well in 1979 by a medical officer of health, does not continue?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I have not had a chance to read in detail this memo on file from the former medical officer of health, but let me say to the member that under the Public Health Act the medical officer of health has extensive authority to do what he or she considers to be appropriate under the circumstances.

I would repeat that it was the federal government that approved this substance for use in the Canadian Home Insulation Program specifically, and it was the federal government that, quite rightly, when it determined there might be a problem, put on a temporary ban and kept all the provinces advised of what it was doing. We in turn kept all the local health authorities advised.

I repeat what I said before: I don't think all the questions have been answered as to whether this is a health hazard and, if so, what the corrective measures should be. That is not as yet clear.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Since the bad effects of this insulation depend upon whether or not it was properly installed in the first instance, particularly if it was installed below a certain special temperature, would the minister authorize his medical officers of health, through their staffs, to provide the kind of inspection that individual home owners must surely be looking for? It certainly does not seem to be provided at the federal level. If these people could phone the MOH office and have somebody come out and do an inspection, they may find their insulation is properly installed, and I think that is the case in more than 90 per cent of the installations.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, the health units would not have, in their offices, the technical expertise necessary. That is why we pointed out to them several months ago, when we gave them the details of the temporary ban, that technical assistance was available from the Ministry of Labour. I would prefer to take the extra day or two to be certain of what the federal government's position is, and also the medical advice it has had, before we determine whether that is necessary.

HOUSING FOR SEASONAL FARM WORKERS

Mr. Sheppard: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Agriculture and Food on seasonal housing. Could the minister advise the Legislature what he plans to do about needed

additional seasonal housing for farm workers? Our farmers are dependent on a good supply of workers to harvest their crops and I believe good housing is important in attracting good workers.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, first, it is easy to understand why that party is over there. They really are not interested in the people of the province.

In answer to the question of the honourable member, we have worked out an agreement with Ontario fruit and vegetable producers whereby we will share the costs of seasonal housing for up to 10 employees. The total grant will be 50 per cent or $1,000 per unit, and we believe it will supply the necessary housing.

AID TO PENSIONERS

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Revenue following on the Ontario property tax grant scheme. As the minister is aware, some 2,000 senior citizens have had demands on them for repayment of the grant where those persons are residents of apartments owned by charitable organizations exempted from paying municipal property taxes. Will the minister look at section 9 of the act and inform the House whether the procedures under the act have been followed, especially as to whether notices in writing properly went to the applicants who were not eligible for grants, and advised those persons of their right to object to such a decision?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: I will look at the section and get back to the member accordingly.

Mr. Breithaupt: While the minister is doing that, will he review this letter, a copy of which I am sending over to him now? It was sent out the week after the election and brusquely demanded repayment. If the letters are not in compliance with the act, would the minister agree that these pensioners are eligible for the 1980 grant?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: I will look at the letter and respond at the same time.

AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry and Tourism. It concerns the document on the Tory Board of Industrial Leadership and Development. There is one quote regarding the auto industry that says, "There is good cause to believe that the worst is past."

How can the minister make that statement, in view of the fact that our trade deficit with Japan from 1979 to 1980 doubled to $854 million; our deficit with the United States is still over $2 billion; our world deficit is $4 billion; production at Ford Motor Company for the first three months of this year is down 23 per cent; production at Chrysler is down 22 per cent; total production is down 10 per cent, and the unemployment rate remains at about 25 per cent for auto workers in this province?

Is the only response to the crisis in the automobile industry the government's Automotive Parts Technology Centre, which was promised to three quarters of this province?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, the member may recall that recently a lot more auto workers were laid off in this province than currently are laid off. In this province there is something like 8,900 workers currently on indefinite layoff; in the United States there are 180,000. So we are doing far better than the Americans in terms of our employment.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member's colleagues may not be aware of the situation with regard to plant closings, which sometimes they would like to believe occur only in Canada. Let me tell them a little bit about what has been happening if they want to compare where the various auto industries are.

In the United States, in terms of General Motors plant shutdowns, we had a Pontiac assembly plant shut down in Michigan. St. Louis assembly, St. Louis Corvette assembly, Detroit Cadillac engine plant, Flint foundry and Detroit Cadillac assembly have all closed down.

Would the member like the list of Chrysler plant shutdowns in the United States? They include Lyons trim, Michigan; Hamtrack assembly, Michigan; Fostoria iron foundry, Ohio; Eight-Mile/Outer Drive Stamping, Detroit; Missouri truck assembly; Warren RV assembly, Michigan; Huber Avenue foundry, Detroit; Cape Canaveral, Florida; Mack Avenue stamping, Detroit, and Lynch Road, Detroit. The total employment loss there was almost 25,000.

Ford plants closing in the United States were Los Angeles assembly; Mahwah assembly, New Jersey, Dearborn assembly, Michigan; Flat Rock foundry, Michigan, and Cleveland engine plant. Those are all the plants that closed in the United States auto industry.

What has happened in Ontario? Members will recall the great fuss in this assembly, and quite properly, over the loss of the Chrysler engine

plant and the Ford foundry. I recall standing in this assembly and saying to the members that the Ford foundry plant was not closed forever, that it might well be cranked up again. I do notice that I did not get an open letter from the member or anyone else noting that the Ford foundry plant had reopened, as we indicated was a major possibility. At this date we have one major plant shutdown in this country as opposed to the list I read from the United States.

I think it is also important to note, and the member asked the question, why it was I had some optimism that we have bottomed out.

Mr. Laughren: That was not what he said.

Mr. Cooke: That was not it.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That is what the member said. He asked why we believe the worst is past. I can tell him one reason why we believe the worst is past: It is because this jurisdiction has done far more to rescue its auto sector than any other jurisdiction. We have the auto parts technical centre. We have SITEV America coming to Toronto instead of Detroit for its first show ever. We have perhaps one of the leading experts in auto parts working for this government in Paris and talking to the international auto parts people. We have major programs under the employment development fund which the member's party specifically opposed.

Last year we offered 20 loans and grants totalling $15.4 million to the auto industry; from Ontario Development Corporation and others, 13 loans and guarantees to the automotive industry. The total under those two programs was almost 5,000 jobs. We have had 73 major new auto plants or expansions in the past 24 months. Let the member show me another jurisdiction that has done that.

Finally, may I say one of the reasons I believe things are going to improve for our auto sector is that I read the special supplement in the Windsor newspaper. Why did they put out a special edition? It was because of the opening of the Ford V-6 engine plant, which is here expressly and only because this government took the initiative to put that major auto parts plant there and put in 2,000 jobs for the people that the member should be defending and protecting.

Mr. Cooke: It is too bad the minister does not put as much energy into getting jobs created in this province as he does into his long answers in this Legislature.

As a supplementary, I would like to ask the minister why he continues to have this optimism when the Ministry of the Treasury and Economics put out a study—to which we never had a chance to get this minister to respond, because he refused to come to the select committee one week and the following week the plug was pulled and we had an election—that indicates the Ford V-8 engine plants will be closing in Windsor and the V-6 engine plant this government talks about so often has a limited lifetime; that over the next three years the Chrysler car plant will be operating at minimal production and van production will be limited; that the American Motors car plant is likely to close over the next few years, and that the Holmes Foundry Limited plant is likely to close over the next few years.

3 p.m.

It also indicates that in the auto parts sector, where in 1970 Canada accounted for 70 per cent of the United States' imports of auto parts, in 1979 we accounted for 43 per cent. The report says, "If recent trends continue, Japan could displace Canada as the single most important supplier of automotive parts to the United States in the very near future," and its employment projections indicate a 35 per cent loss in auto jobs in this province.

How does the minister develop optimism from those kinds of statistics, which were produced by his own cabinet colleague?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I believe the member was present when the report was tabled in front of the committee, or has taken the time to read Hansard when it was presented, so he knows it was a worst-case scenario developed by the Ministry of Treasury and Economics. It did not have the blessing of the cabinet or the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) of this province, as he made clear.

I know the member understands that any careful and cautious government does not simply rely on optimistic views of how the world might turn out; he always criticizes us for doing that. We can develop optimistic scenarios because we have done the homework, which includes looking at the worst-case scenario, the likely scenario and the best-case scenario. If the member is not too busy writing me open letters, I hope he will drop into the consideration of my estimates, where he will hear the best-case scenario. It may be informative for him.

Just to emphasize the point, may I say that the member and the select committee know the reference was to the worst-case scenario. It is the kind of thing a responsible government must do in order to know what the downside is and to

develop programs that will ensure that that worst-case scenario does not develop. If he studies the figures, he will also note that, unlike every other jurisdiction in North America, to date we have avoided the worst-case scenario, and we will continue to do that.

Mr. Wrye: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: In view of the fact that of all Ontario cities, Windsor has suffered the largest impact of this prolonged series of layoffs, especially at Chrysler, where, as the minister himself points out, the engine plant is going to close, throwing permanently out of work some 2,500 people, and the assembly plant has been cut back to a single shift and production at the Ford engine plant is only sporadic, is the minister now prepared to reconsider Windsor as a site for the auto parts technology centre, rather than putting it in one of the more politically favourable sites suggested by the government during the campaign?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I understand the honourable member is asking that question for reasons totally unrelated to political purposes for his own sake, that he thinks that is the best place to locate it for economic reasons. I am sure he has particular views on the situation.

May I say to him it is our view that the best two locations, from an economic point of view and as good business judgement, are the two places indicated. If the member or the city of Windsor believe they can argue successfully that Windsor is a better location, economically, for the location of that centre, we would be pleased to receive their submissions.

In fairness, I would not want to raise expectations for Windsor, because I should caution the member that the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development document was very carefully researched and drawn, particularly when it comes to the auto parts section. Therefore, I must caution the member that we, the Ontario Research Foundation and the auto parts people did a great deal of homework before deciding on Chatham and the Niagara Peninsula, which includes some opposition-held ridings, just to assure the member that politics had absolutely nothing whatever to do with this decision.

Mr. O'Neil: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Will the minister be recommending to the cabinet that the select committee on plant closings and employee adjustment be reconvened so that the final report can be brought in and some of these problems can be dealt with so that we do not encounter them again?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: My recommendations to cabinet are not something I ordinarily make public. The cabinet will have one position on that question.

Mr. O'Neil: What are the minister's personal feelings?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: What are my feelings on it? I will vent those this Wednesday or perhaps next Wednesday at cabinet.

Mr. Speaker: The time for oral questions has expired.

TRANSFER OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege. As a member of this assembly representing the largest constituency of francophones in Ontario, and also a very large agricultural area, I feel my privileges as a member have been abused. My community is outraged by the statements by the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea)—I will translate, after I read the text in French—that "Un paquet de fermiers francais n'y changera rien," which means in English, "A bunch of French farmers will not change anything." That was reported in Le Droit of Ottawa on Saturday, April 25.

Even if the minister is reflecting government policy, which I hope is not the case, I would request at the very least that he withdraw the statement and apologize to the Franco-Ontarian community of Ontario as he has already been asked by L'Association Canadienne-Francaise de l'Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, let us get one thing straight in this assembly. Nobody is telling me where to put juvenile offenders. Nobody is telling me where to move them. They will be moved when they have proper places to go. I realize juvenile offenders in a training school are not the most glamorous part of life in this province. Indeed, such a school may be unpleasant, but it is very necessary. I say to the member, neither he nor anybody else is going to send me a demand note telling me to leave there.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will take the point of privilege of the member for Prescott-Russell under consideration.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, the minister has not answered as to whether, in fact, he made that statement. Nor, of course, has he apologized to the constituents if he has.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I do not recall making the statement "a bunch of French farmers." I referred to them as a French farm

organization which sent me a telegram. I am not going to apologize to them. I want them to apologize to me in the Legislature. The member can tell them that.

Mr. Speaker: I repeat to the member for Prescott-Russell that I will take his point under consideration.

CAMPING ON CROWN LAND

Mr. T.P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order dealing with the present Minister of Natural Resources. My congratulations on his appointment. His predecessor, in the Natural Resources estimates before Christmas, gave me and the committee a commitment that he would have a statement in March on the use of crown land and, in particular, on nonresidents' camping for free on crown land. The then Minister of Natural Resources, Mr. Auld, at that time indicated he would make a statement to the House in March in regard to this matter, which is of great concern to people in northern Ontario. Due to circumstances beyond our control we were not here. I wonder if the minister would indicate when he is going to make that statement.

3:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, the answer to the question is, I have already reviewed the Hansard of the estimates committee last fall and I have been discussing the matter of a number of commitments that Mr. Auld made during the course of those estimates. We will be honouring the commitments. We are working on a number of them now. As soon as I can, I will forward them to the member.

PETITIONS

ANNUAL REPORT, MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition that reads as follows: "Under standing order 33(b), we, the undersigned, petition that the annual report of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations for the year ending March 31, 1980, be referred to the standing committee on administration of justice at the appropriate time." This is signed by at least 20 members.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 8, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to prevent the hiring of strikebreakers and to control access to a work premise that is affected by a strike or lockout. The bill prohibits an employer from hiring or using the services of a person to do the work of an employee who is on strike or locked out, unless that person is specifically authorized to do so. Similarly, when a picket line is established at a place of access to a work premise, access is limited to persons specifically authorized by the bill.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 9, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to provide the Ontario Labour Relations Board with authority to settle the terms and conditions of a first collective agreement between a trade union and an employer where the dispute settlement procedures in the act have not been effective. Each collective agreement settled by the board should be for a term of between one and two years in duration.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 10, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: The purpose of this bill is to clarify the status of an employer before the Ontario Labour Relations Board. On an application for certification by a trade union, the employer is permitted to present evidence and make submissions concerning several matters listed in the bill. The employer is not permitted to present evidence or make submissions relating to other matters.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 11, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to preserve the collective bargaining rights of employees of a business that is relocated. In addition, in order to continue the prerelocation bargaining rights and collective agreements in force after the relocation, the proposed amendments provide for a 60-day period from the date of the notice of relocation, during which an employee can choose to continue his employment at the new location. Once

the relocation has taken place, the Ontario Labour Relations Board has the authority to determine whether a bargaining unit exists.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 12, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to clarify that the Labour Relations Act applies to employees who are engaged in agricultural employment in an industrial or factory setting. Section 2(b) of the act currently states that the act does not apply to a person employed in agriculture. This provision has been interpreted broadly by the Ontario Labour Relations Board to exclude from the act persons whose employment relates to agriculture but who are employed in organizations that resemble industrial plants.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 13, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: The purpose of the bill is to repeal a provision of the act that prohibits the inclusion of security guards in a bargaining unit. The repeal of this provision would permit security guards to join or establish an association or union for collective bargaining purposes.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 14, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to delete the exclusion from "employee" of persons who exercise managerial functions. The effect of the amendment is to permit these persons to join or establish an association or union for collective bargaining purposes.

3:20 p.m.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 15, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to reduce the percentage of employees in a bargaining unit required to be members of a trade union in order for a board to direct a representation vote. The proposed amendment requires the board to certify a trade union as a bargaining agent without a representation vote where the board is satisfied that more than 50 per cent of the members of the bargaining unit are members of the trade union. A representative vote held under this section must be held within seven days of the date on which the board directs the vote.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 16, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is in section 1 of the bill. It repeals a provision of the act that permits an employer to request, either before or after the commencement of a strike or lockout, that a vote be held on the employer's last offer. Section 2 of the bill repeals a provision of the act that permits employees in a bargaining unit who are not members of a trade union to participate in a strike vote or a vote to ratify a proposed collective agreement. In effect, this is a removal of the two negative parts of Bill 89 that we discussed.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Martel moved first reading of Bill 17, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act, 1974.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to prohibit an employer from requiring an employee to work more than five consecutive days without two days of rest.

PETROLIA SQUIRES HOCKEY TEAM

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, I am sure all the members would want to join me today when I extend good wishes and congratulations to the Petrolia Squires hockey team. Yesterday in Thunder Bay they won the Allan Cup game with stiff competition from Manitoba. The important thing is this team also won this particular honour two years ago. I think they do deserve congratulations.

MOTION TO SUSPEND NORMAL BUSINESS

Mr. Cassidy moved, pursuant to standing order 34, that the business of the House be set aside to discuss a matter of urgent public

importance, namely, that there is a crisis in housing because home prices are rising to such levels it is becoming impossible for most families to purchase homes. Furthermore, the prices result from the inaction of the government to control speculation and profiteering in the housing market, and the refusal of the government to monitor and control the inflationary influx of foreign capital into Ontario's housing market.

Mr. Speaker: This notice of motion has been received in time and complies with the standing order. I will listen to the honourable member for up to five minutes as to why he thinks the ordinary business of the House should be set aside.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, beginning early this year, there has been a dizzy escalation of housing prices in Metropolitan Toronto and in the surrounding areas of Durham, York and Peel, and it is now extending everywhere in Ontario. Up in my own riding of Ottawa Centre and in the surrounding ridings of Ottawa, the pressure is just beginning. It is very clear that if action is not taken by the government with the most urgent possible means, in the most urgent possible way, we will see a further disappearance of the chance for ordinary families to own a home of their own.

The issue is affordable housing. In March of this year there were only 800 homes—that is only 17 per cent of the homes that were sold—that families of a medium income in Metropolitan Toronto could afford. To buy the average home in Metropolitan Toronto would require an income of $44,600 at today's interest rates, and that is far greater than the average family income in Metropolitan Toronto. In particular, it is far greater than the average income of first-time house buyers who, in many cases, have only one income or who have to pay heavy expenses for day care because they have one or two young children who require care and who cannot be left on their own while both parents go out to work.

We have a major problem with speculation and it is coming at us from all quarters. There are people in this community, and in our communities across the province, who are buying a second, a third or a fourth home, who are buying duplexes and semi-detached homes in order to speculate in housing, despite what that does to people of modest means who are trying to get a home of their own.

There is money coming into Ontario from the west coast and from Alberta. People are, in fact, buying homes on a wholesale basis. They are buying them sight unseen. People are picking up the telephone after reading the newspaper and are telling their agent or their broker, "I want this home, that home and that home. Don't spare the expense," because they are treating housing like a commodity, as though it were the stock market. We have the further problem of foreign capital coming in. It is coming in from Europe, it is coming in from Hong Kong, and goodness knows where else it is coming in from; it is buying property in Metropolitan Toronto and rapidly spreading out to the rest of the province.

Faced with that situation, we have a minister who believes no action is required. We have a government that accepts the minister's recommendation that no action should be taken. We have a minister recommending that his own ministry should, in fact, be phased out. We have a government not prepared to take any responsibility for providing housing at a price that people can afford.

People in my party happen to believe that housing should be a social right. It is a primary duty of government in this province to make sure that housing is available to the ordinary citizens of our province at a price they can afford, whether they wish to buy a home or whether they wish to rent a home.

But the minister refuses to act. He refuses to recommend a speculation tax. He refuses to do the research necessary to determine how much foreign capital is pouring into the market right now. He refuses to investigate the situation. He refuses to require residency. He refuses to look into the facts all of us know, which are that week after week the price of housing is being driven up and nothing is being done.

On top of that, we have the situation where people who bought homes four or five years ago at interest rates of 10 and 12 per cent are being threatened with losing those homes because they cannot afford to renegotiate the mortgage at the 17 per cent rate. No relief was provided last year and no relief is being offered by the government this year.

We have a Ministry of Housing so committed to the rights of developers that it refuses to take any action at all. The minister says, "The developers had a bad time last year and the year before." All he thinks of is what is happening on their balance sheets and on their profit sheets. I ask, what about the balance sheets of the ordinary citizens? What about the right of families that should be able to have a house of

their own? What about a working family threatened with unemployment now, with a wife who cannot keep her job because of unemployment—and the government does nothing—with a family that cannot get day care so that it can get two incomes to afford to buy a home? Do those people not have rights as well?

I ask, Mr. Speaker, is this government not committed to the family as the basic unit of the social structure of our society in Ontario? If that is the case, do families not have the right to have a home of their own where they can raise children, or is that right something we had in the 1940s, we had in the 1950s, we had in the 1960s, we had for part of the 1970s but is something that we are to have no more?

3:30 p.m.

We cannot wait until the end of the throne speech debate. We cannot wait until May 19 when the budget comes down. We cannot wait forever while the government says they will take no action. The need for action is urgent. Action is required now, and I believe this emergency cries out for debate in this Legislature today.

To that end I am prepared to accept that tomorrow, if we have the debate today, my speech in the throne debate will follow that of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Smith) in order to make sure that this subject gets debated now and does not get shoved to one side by the Conservatives, as it has been for so long.

Mr. Ruprecht: Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Liberal Party to support this motion. As you know, my leader and the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) indicated throughout the preceding question period their great dissatisfaction with the minister and his total disregard of the plight of those who want to own their own shelter.

I am not quite sure whether the minister realizes that we in the metropolitan area are indeed having a crisis. We now know—and he has admitted this apparently—that the ordinary person and the ordinary middle income family cannot afford to buy a house in the metropolitan area. What kind of an admission is this?

The Toronto Star indicated this on April 24. The writer quoted the minister directly. He admitted that the average-income family in the metropolitan area cannot afford to purchase a home in this location. I think that is really abominable. We know that the average family income is about $36,000 and that is required to purchase a $70,000 home, but apparently that leaves a big gap.

In 1982, we now know, the prices of new housing starts will be 18 per cent higher than they are today—18 per cent on top of the gap that already exists. Furthermore, what is even more important is that the supply of housing is down. In fact it is at its lowest point in 14 years.

We now know, as was already indicated, that foreign money is playing a great role apparently in the speculative rise in housing costs today. We know—and I have the questionnaire right here—that Price Waterhouse and Associates were hired to do a "profitability" study to determine just how much profit the land owners and the apartment owners will have in this city. Yet the minister sits over there, quite smugly, and does not even indicate he wants to do something about monitoring or even finding out in the smallest way whether foreign money is indeed driving up house prices in this metropolitan area. And we do know that money is coming in from all over the place, including Europe and Asia.

We are asking why the minister is not prepared to take any action in this crisis situation. We should not be surprised, however. Look at the record of this government. We have Darcy McKeough, who singlehandedly wanted to dismantle the federal Ministry of Housing. And we have the Minister of Housing (Mr. Bennett) right here in this chamber who says, and I quote, "The Housing ministry as such is no longer necessary."

Members should think about that. He says that the Housing ministry is no longer necessary and when he is asked if he should get together with the federal minister and try to work out some kind of an arrangement whereby the people in this municipal area would have help to purchase housing, he says no.

I quote again from the Star, "I do not wish to jump into bed with these people." No one is asking the minister to jump into bed with anyone. We are not asking the minister to jump into bed with the Prime Minister or with Mr. Cosgrove. What we are asking, this opposition especially, is that he try to do something about the housing shortage that has befallen this city.

If he is neither able nor willing to do so, then we suggest that, having made the statement that the Housing ministry is no longer necessary, he give it to someone who is ready, able and willing to handle the severe problems that are indicated in Toronto.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. Ruprecht: Mr. Speaker, if I may be

permitted to make one more statement, there are some options outlined in this position paper which the minister should look at.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, the government is not going to argue that the substance of this motion is not something of public importance. Of course it is of public importance. It is of great importance to every member of this Legislature.

But I think the real question before us today is whether this is indeed a matter of urgent public importance, an emergency, something that should intrude in the orderly business of this House today, at the first opportunity members have had to raise it. Does it really fulfill the necessary requirements for that, or, as May says, is there a possibility of the matter being brought before the House, in time, by some other means?

May states that is one of the criteria Speakers over the years have applied to resolutions such as this, where it is asked that the orderly business of the House be interrupted to consider something that is of urgency or an emergency. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that that criterion does not apply to the motion before us today.

What is the business of the House that is to be suspended in order to allow this debate to go on? The orderly business of today is the speech from the leader of the official opposition, a speech which I am sure will, among other things, touch upon housing. I would be very surprised if it were not at least a part of the speech that my friend will be delivering.

Housing has been talked about in the question period since this House began its sittings last Thursday. Housing was touched upon in a speech from the member for St. George (Ms. Fish) on Friday. The ordinary business of this House that we are now engaged in, I submit to you, is the most important debate of this House, the debate on the speech from the throne; a debate where every member of this House can speak—and indeed, many are lined up waiting to speak.

The business of this House is so ordered that tomorrow evening, Thursday and Friday of this week, and next Monday, every member of this House who so wishes can get up and discuss housing or other matters of public importance. In fact, those matters can be and will be discussed in this House. I think it is important to underline that the speeches of the members in that case will not have a 10-minute limit and that, if such is the wish of any member, a motion of no confidence in this government may be placed and be voted upon.

Certainly all matters concerned with housing are of public importance. I have been in this House for 18 years and we have discussed housing in every one of those years because it is one of the important people issues of this province. We will continue to discuss it, and it will be a major discussion point in the throne debate. But certainly this motion, Mr. Speaker, does not fall within the criteria of urgent public importance as rule 34 perceives matters presented under that rule would.

3:40 p.m.

I would further like to say to my friend, the leader of the third party, that he suggested that he would speak after the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Smith) tomorrow. I would like to propose to him that he speak after the Leader of the Opposition today in the throne debate and he can then have his housing debate today and do it completely within the present business of this House. The government does not feel that the case has been adequately proven, that under rule 34 this is a matter of urgent public importance.

Mr. Speaker: I have taken a very close look at the motion. It is one of public importance, there is no doubt of that. However, I am of the opinion that it would be more properly discussed during the throne debate, particularly when I take note of the fact that the leader of the third party, who filed this notice of motion, is scheduled to speak on the throne debate tomorrow, or possibly today, and will then have a more ample opportunity to actually deal with this subject, or any other subject he chooses, in detail at whatever length he finds necessary rather than being limited to the 10 minutes provided by rule 34.

I have listened very carefully to the member's presentation and the presentation of the Liberal Party and the government House leader. I do not see any reason to change my opinion. I, therefore, rule that the notice of motion is out of order.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE
(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to rise to respond to the speech from the throne. I must confess I would have preferred to make a

speech on this throne debate from the other side of the House, but it was not the will of the people of Ontario that it was to be so. None the less, I am happy to address the House on this occasion and to refer not only to the contents of the speech from the throne but, even more important, to certain matters that were not included in the speech from the throne.

The amazing thing about this speech from the throne is its total lack of reality. People looking at this speech would honestly think that Ontario was not afflicted by problems of slow growth, by problems of deindustrialization, by problems of high unemployment, crushing interest rates, and rapidly rising prices. They would honestly think that none of these things such as plant shutdowns and deindustrialization were happening in Ontario. It has a total unreality about it.

I know the Premier (Mr. Davis) went south just prior to writing this speech from the throne, but I have to ask, where did he go? Did he go to Fantasy Island? I have to ask this question.

I understand politics and I realize that in the last election it was good politics to pretend that none of these problems were in existence in Ontario. It was clever politics—thigh-slapping politics I imagine, as in the back room, Hugh Segal, the Premier and other members of the executive council just rolled about and doubled over with laughter at the notion that the opposition was trying to bring the news to the people of Ontario that we had exceptionally slow growth, high unemployment, layoffs, and factory shutdowns. All they had to do was sing jingles and reassure themselves with their knowledge from public opinion polls that the public simply either did not believe it, did not care about it, hadn't seen it clearly enough or whatever.

I know it was amusing and it worked, admittedly, but, my friends, the election is over. The only conclusion I can come to, since I know the people opposite are not so foolish as honestly to believe what they said in the last election campaign, is they thought it would be embarrassing, after a whole campaign of saying everything was great in Ontario, suddenly to produce a speech from the throne one week later saying there were real problems in Ontario.

Basically, I take this speech from the throne, and my colleagues accept it, as a sort of epilogue to the election play, the little amusement which was presented for the people of Ontario. This speech from the throne essentially is a sort of epilogue which, like the election campaign itself, has to ignore the real issues.

I would hate to think this was actually the prologue for the play to be played out here for the next four years. I would hate to think there is any member on the government benches—even including those many on the back benches who sought to be Liberal candidates at one time and have since presumably become enlightened in some manner—leaving those aside, I would presume that among the members on the government side of the House there is sufficient intelligence to recognize the total unreality of the document which was read and read rather well. In fact, the only good thing about the document was the way in which it wasread by His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor.

The truth is we need a government that is willing to come to grips with the real problem before all the harm has been done. I realize public opinion polls will always show the public is unaware of problems until the problems have actually hit large numbers of individuals right in the face. But, as Homer said many years ago—and I think even the member for Brock (Mr. Welch) may be too young to remember the actual statement made at the time; the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve) might remember it, but I don't think the member for Brock will recall it. As Homer said, "Once harm has been done, even a fool understands it." We, as leaders of the people, presumably have to respond to trends before all the damage has been done.

Before dealing with what is not in the throne speech, let me deal with what is in the speech. First, there is a call in that speech for the Prime Minister of the country to call a first ministers' conference to deal with the problem of inflation. This heartening call, this clarion call to action in the face of today's problems was issued by coincidence in the middle of the election campaign, and this call to action says to the Prime Minister: "We have a huge problem in Ontario. For God's sake, call a meeting."

What we are all waiting to find out, and what the Prime Minister of the country would like to know, as I noted in question period, and what I would like to know, is what proposal does Ontario have to offer at such a meeting? That, of course, has not been heard in so much as a whisper. There are no proposals from this government. The only thing this government proposed was to be re-elected. It succeeded in that. It will let us know day after day of its pride in the fact that it succeeded in that.

Soon the jokes about the fact they have a majority will wear a trifle thin and the fact is

they have no recommendations whatsoever to make to the government of Canada except to call a meeting. Ontario has become irrelevant.

When Darcy McKeough was the Treasurer of Ontario, I can tell the House the government of Canada wanted to know at all times the view of the Treasurer of Ontario on important economic matters of the day. They used to call him to find out. It is a fact.

If the government checks, it will find out in Treasury, from those few people left in Treasury who have not been taken up by the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Grossman) into his ministry for his leadership campaign; those few who remain in Treasury today, Mr. Speaker, will tell you they used to receive phone calls from the federal government, but with the present head of Santa's Village acting as Treasurer of Ontario, I can say that his opinion is sought by no one. His opinion is given at no time that anyone has been able to make out. Therefore, the entire charade of calling for a meeting cannot really hearten anyone who is genuinely worried about the impact of inflation on Ontario. I will have more to say about that as time passes during this short speech.

Mr. McClellan: As the sun sets.

Mr. Smith: As the sun sets. As those remaining members of the NDP huddle together for what little comfort the few of them can give to one another, the least I can do is to offer my gratitude for their attendance in the House. I will attempt to be present for their leader's talk tomorrow.

What follows in the speech from the throne? There is reference made to the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program. The interesting thing about that BILD program is that we hardly know which way to attack it in the opposition because it is so tempting to attack the $1.5 billion figure as extravagant. The fact remains, however, and what everyone in the press gallery knows—whether the population knows it or not I frankly cannot say—the $1.5 billion is really only three quarters of a billion dollars. The rest has to come from a magical source unspecified elsewhere.

That three quarters of a billion is to be divided over five years, which is about $150 million a year. That is to replace something called the employment development fund, a fund which largely turned out to be emergency assistance to the pulp and paper companies of Ontario just at the time that their shares were about to skyrocket to record levels and take-over bids were to be made for a good many of them. Out of the taxpayers' pocket this kind of emergency relief was given.

But the interesting thing was that there was some $200 million a year in that fund. So we are now to see in essence, a reduction of $50 million a year towards industrial development in Ontario. And that is referred to as great leadership and is given a new title of BILD and all the rest of it.

Mr. Speaker, in your more unbiased, less partisan moments, such as when you are sitting in the chair, you must laugh to yourself that such a massive hoax could have been perpetrated on the people of Ontario, a program with massive signs behind the Premier, all to announce a $50 million a year reduction in industrial development funds for the province of Ontario.

Then we have in the speech from the throne a total commitment to an electrical strategy. The energy program of Ontario is to be "Live better electrically." Members may remember that. That is familiar, isn't it? The Minister of Culture and Recreation (Mr. Baetz), when he was still an average citizen with certain Liberal inclinations, will remember "Live better electrically." Suddenly that was replaced. Anyone who referred to "Live better electrically" was an outcast.

The Minister of Energy (Mr. Welch) will remember that because we had a barking dog telling us to turn off every light switch, that anyone who failed to do that would be turning off a friend. We had to turn off all the electricity as rapidly as possible. Now what do we have? We have "Live better electrically" in a new guise. There is going to be money for anyone who puts electrical heat into his home.

We are, in fact, so committed to living better electrically and the news of this had such an impact at Hydro they had to rush out and rent space throughout downtown Toronto at the highest rate available in the entire province for thousands of new staff. Upon hearing the news we were once again to stop turning off friends, or turning on friends or whatever, and we were to start living better electrically, they needed to be accommodated smack in the middle of town. So we now have, as members know, the Hydro empire expanding into Bay Street, where undoubtedly it will be exceedingly welcome. But I will have a little more to say about the electrical strategy as we go along.

What else is in the speech from the throne? There is one good thing. There is the biotechnology centre; that is a good thing. The Innovation Development for Employment Advance-

ment Corporation—there are some good possibilities there. I say frankly and without wishing to be excessively partisan, I think there were some better ideas in our proposals of research institutes that could be jointly operated by industry and by universities and could be located at various post-secondary centres in Ontario. I would hope that the IDEA Corporation might spawn the kind of institutes we have referred to. We will look forward to see what that can develop.

We have a few words about agriculture; some long overdue storage facilities in food processing help. But, of course, the agricultural performance is pitiful. Agriculture is the only segment in this economy where in real dollar terms since 1971 the average income has gone down in the decade—the only segment.

In Quebec, for the first time in our history, Mr. Speaker—and I address you because I know the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Henderson) does not like to hear this kind of news—the average farm income in Quebec—a province we used to laugh at in their efforts to scrounge a living on the farms where the soil is not anything like it is in Ontario, where they were having to scrabble about among rocks in half the farms—the average income has now gone above the average income of a farmer in the rich province of Ontario. That is due entirely to provincial policies in Quebec and a lack of provincial policies here in Ontario.

There is mention in the speech from the throne of the Urban Transportation Development Corporation. We all hope it will succeed, but it looks as though Los Angeles, which was trotted out just prior to the election, might have to be trotted back in again. It is unfortunate but it looks as though a few chickens were being counted there before they hatched. But if it wins elections what difference does it make? However, we wish it well. We hope it will do well.

Frankly, we still have not received one penny back from the UTDC for the $64 million of public funds that have been spent, but we all live in hope. We also live in hope about the one sale they have been able to make, which is with a federal subsidy from our friends in Ottawa whom this government is fond of talking about, a federal subsidy so that Vancouver could buy it, that has been underwritten by a $300 million guarantee by Ontario. I just sit with trepidation and worry about what might happen to that money. But we will see. We will hope for the best.

I will say this; there is the courage in the speech from the throne to mention South Cayuga. That is amazing. I would not have thought when a site, which has been chosen for patently political purposes—17 sites were looked at by experts, the 17 best in Ontario—then the government has the nerve to say: "Oh, by the way, we have decided it will be an eighteenth site which you have not looked at. It is not one of the 17 best in Ontario, but it has the most wonderful qualifications imaginable." And we are stuck with it.

4 p.m.

To choose a site like that and not have proper environmental hearings under the Environmental Assessment Act was nearly criminal, frankly. It took away the confidence people have in justice and fair play in Ontario. Then, during the election campaign, to find that this vaunted site, this marvellous site, this site about whose safety we were assured time and time again, was under water, and still to hear the government insist the site is excellent—it boggles the mind; it staggers the imagination; it beggars description.

Did you hear what the deputy minister said at the time, Mr. Speaker? He said, "This was not a flood, this was excessive snow melt." Have you ever seen that? I invite the Minister of Agriculture and Food—who, after all, would know something about snow melt and flooding—to come down and look at the bridge over the tributary of the Grand River, a bridge which was covered to its middle railing in water as the tributary flooded, and tell us that was excessive snow melt.

I suppose any flood that occurs in springtime somewhere or other might be related to the fact that upstream somewhere snow may have melted. But my friends, a flood is a flood is a flood, and the South Cayuga site is in the flood plain of the Grand River. That can never be denied or pretended otherwise.

The only way the government is going to get public confidence in the procedures of justice—which it may not care about with its great majority—is to have the guts to have a proper environmental assessment hearing under the great Environmental Assessment Act. It has trumpeted the act all over North America as a great piece of environmental assessment legislation, only it has never been used. Why does the government not have the guts to finally put that under the Environmental Assessment Act where it belongs and where the Liberal Party would have put it?

Mr. Speaker, have you had a chance to read the speech from the throne? You look a little puzzled. I recommend it; I really do.

The Deputy Speaker: Bedtime reading.

Mr. Smith: Bedtime reading, well that is fine.

Interjections.

Mr. Smith: It is just amazing the way the government does nothing and gets elected. It reminds me of the very words of Isaiah. Isaiah 30, verse seven, says, "Their strength is to sit still." That is precisely what it is.

The speech from the throne goes on to mention pensions. Here we are in Ontario in 1981. We have women inadequately covered by pension; we have working people, some 70 per cent of them, with virtually no pension fund at all; we have factories which close and the people who leave have no pension coverage because their pension has not been vested yet.

Inflation is proceeding at some 10 to 12 per cent a year and is predicted to continue that way for another five years at least, if not longer, and still pensions are inadequate. For four years we had a royal commission on pensions in Ontario and the government said, "We cannot do anything about pensions because we are waiting for the royal commission."

The royal commission actually reported. One newspaper in town, I understand, was so shocked it could have been headed by a woman that it even got the name wrong in one of the articles, but we will leave that out. It finally reported. What was this government's immediate response to this crisis, with the entire royal commission report in hand? It was to set up a committee to examine the report.

I ask my fellow members of the Legislature, how much longer do the ordinary working people, the men and women, whether they work in factories or at home, have to wait for some kind of action on the part of this government? What is the purpose of having royal commissions if all we are going to do is then study the studies of the studies?

We have to start acting now. We have to move on this issue now. We cannot continue to leave people without protection. I am going to talk about inflation as this speech progresses. I want the members to recognize that what is happening with inflation today is that those with condominiums in various resort areas, and those with summer homes in various resort areas, and those with paintings and antiques, and those with money to invest in stocks and bonds, particularly in commodities, or in gold, are profiting today from inflation and that is a transfer of wealth—unless we print up all the new money and have worse inflation—from the person who is working right now in a factory on Spadina Avenue and has no money to invest in these things.

Wealth is being transferred from that person into the pockets of the wealthy. The only way to protect the people on Spadina and elsewhere who are working at close to minimum wage is with decent pension funds that can then be invested in assets, in commodities and can grow with the passage of time to protect their future.

Without proper pension protection, we are robbing those people day by day. The poor are getting poorer and the rich richer, and all we are to have here is yet another committee to study the results of another committee which presumably itself studied a previous committee. It is shameful. Action is needed on pensions now and, had we been elected, we would be moving this very month to assure proper pension policy in Ontario.

There is an amusing note on the whole subject of pensions, and that is the recent statement by the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller). The Treasurer went to Burlington. I happen to live there. It is a very important issue that I live there. I think you should make a note of that, Mr. Speaker. They seem to regard it as trivial. I want them to know their candidate in Hamilton West thought that was the only issue worth mentioning in the entire election campaign. Therefore, it is obviously a very important issue.

In Burlington, the Treasurer made the most amazing statement I have heard an Ontario Treasurer make in many years. He said: "We must not have an expansion of the Canada pension plan. We must go the private pension route." What is the reason for that? The reason is that if we put the money in the Canada pension plan, it is then available to provinces to borrow at less than the going rate of interest. Well, he ought to know that because he has borrowed $8 billion, almost the whole Canada pension plan, at less than the going rate of interest. He is the chief offender in this regard.

He reminds me of a person who comes in to decry prostitution while living off the avails, or even, in another way, perhaps less shocking to people of Conservative persuasion who obviously want to hold their ears—certain members are actually holding their ears; there is no need to. Conservative governments have heard no evil, seen no evil, spoken no evil. In fact, they have done virtually nothing. That is the secret of their great success, let me assure the House.

It is like a person saying he wants to give up smoking. But there had better not be any cigarettes around, because if there are, he cannot resist the temptation to take them.

The Deputy Speaker: Like the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid).

4:10 p.m.

Mr. Smith: Yes, like the member for Rainy River, exactly. It is the same situation. The member for Rainy River has quit smoking many times, and let that be on the record.

The Treasurer says, "Do not put the money in the Canada pension fund where it might help all the citizens because I might be too tempted to dip into it." Would it not be a lot easier to expand the Canada pension fund and change the Treasurer of Ontario? Would that not be a much better solution?

There is not much written in the speech from the throne on the subject of French services. There is one statement—written, interestingly, in French, lest anyone in English actually might understand it; the government would not want any of its supporters to think it had suddenly gone soft on French, would it? One sentence in there is in French and it says there will be special services in the French language. The time is at hand in this country when our minorities deserve not to be given special services and special gifts on the part of the government from time to time, but deserve to have their services as a matter of right inscribed in a statute.

I would like to know what the member who is now the Minister of Culture and Recreation (Mr. Baetz) thinks in Ottawa. What does he say in Ottawa? Does he think the Franco-Ontarians should be forced to come and beg his ministry for services from time to time? All of us from various ridings worry about the member. He is a member of the executive council of Ontario and he did not have the guts in the executive council to stand up and make French services here something by matter of right, rather than something that has to be begged for from his government from time to time. This country is the poorer and the weaker as a consequence of his weakness.

This government is being begged to do something a little better than what it has done. It is being begged by its own Tories in Ottawa, by David Crombie from this city, who must be ashamed of his former assistant, sitting there from St. George as part of a government that actually turned the tide of election by taking a stance against any kind of French language rights in Ontario. David Crombie would be ashamed of her, I will tell her that.

We are also told in the speech from the throne that there will be a police review bill reintroduced for Metropolitan Toronto. I suspect it will be the same business of letting the police review themselves for 30 days. If so, it will be a travesty and will be seen to be a travesty.

I would remind the people opposite that while they might not care much what the Globe and Mail editorial said about their bill, and the Globe supported us in that particular bill, they might care about what the Star, their recently found friend, says. The Star supported us in that bill. They might even care about what their own private organ, the Sun, had to say about it. Even the Sun supported us in that particular bill.

I would recommend, therefore, that when they bring back the police review bill they allow for the civilian commissioner to do the review right off the top and not have to wait for the police to investigate themselves for 30 days while the community is sizzling.

Then, of course, there is mention made of freedom of information. That, my friends, will be the day when the most secretive government in history, the one I am looking at right now, has genuine freedom of information. It will not happen in our lifetime, I am sure.

What is there that is not in the speech from the throne? In many ways that is far more important.

Mr. Mancini: The Minister of Agriculture and Food should stick around.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: I have listened for a long while and I cannot understand any of it.

Mr. Smith: The Minister of Agriculture and Food is quite right. He has listened for a long while and he has understood nothing yet. I agree with him. That is exactly true. That is his problem. He reads material and has managed to absorb nothing yet. If he read what the Ontario Federation of Agriculture has sent him and has to say about him, he would have absorbed something by now. He would have learned something about the state of agriculture. He would have known something about the number of farmers going bankrupt every week, every day, in Ontario and having to move off the farm. He would know something about the needs of farmers and about the way our income in Ontario has fallen behind Quebec.

But he has heard none of that. Mr. Speaker, you heard me speak of agriculture. He has heard

none of it. You heard him say he has heard nothing yet. Well, I suppose he has heard nothing yet. Maybe what he means is that the problems are going to get worse and "you ain't heard nothing yet." Conceivably, that is true.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Nothing from the member opposite.

Mr. Smith: I look forward to the day when the present Minister of Culture and Recreation and the present Minister of Agriculture and Food exchange portfolios. It will be a very interesting day indeed for all concerned, I can assure you.

Now, where was I? I tend to get sidetracked. I do not understand it. It is obviously my colleagues in the Liberal caucus; they are distracting me.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Why don't you wake up the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon)? He is sleeping.

Mr. Smith: The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk is deep in thought. That is where he usually is. He is taking it all in, I can assure the minister. He is reflecting on the pith and substance of every word his present leader is saying, just as I always listen to his comments with the greatest of attention.

What is not there in the speech from the throne? This is the real problem. As I said earlier, of course, there is no recognition of the real problems facing Ontario. There is not a single job created; there is no program of skills retraining for the thousands of people now on layoff; there is no expansion whatever of the apprenticeship program; there is no help for farmers, for small businessmen, for home owners, all faced with high interest rates. There are no long-term arrangements for municipalities for their financing, for school boards, nothing at all.

It is as though those problems do not exist. It is somehow as though this government fails to understand the comparison between a small business and a large business. When interest rates go up for large businesses, if they have to pay, say 16 or 18 per cent, for money, they are making profits; they pay 50 per cent in tax; their effective rate, therefore, is about nine per cent. For small businesses struggling along, they are not making profits; they are not at a 50 per cent tax rate; if they pay 18 per cent, they pay 18 per cent.

So high interest rates, in effect, are an advantage for the large business over the small. They further load the dice in favour of concentration of ownership into a few large companies. We in Ontario, although it is not our fault that inflation is here, have to do something if we want to redress that problem and save our small businesses, which are, after all, the lifeblood of our smaller towns and villages. Many of the members in this House represent the people of the small towns and villages. They should remember that.

Without small business, with farms going bankrupt, with small businesses going bankrupt, the young people have no choice but to leave those towns and villages and move into the city, creating the incredible pressure for homes, which the Minister of Housing (Mr. Bennett) thinks is only right in the centre of Toronto but which is in all Toronto. That is not good for Ontario.

There has to be some help for the small businessmen with their high interest rates, and there are ways of doing it that the government knows very well. There are ways of getting money to small businesses at much less than the prime interest rate. This government ought to be doing that, just as it should be helping farmers and home owners as well.

What else have we found since the speech from the throne? Certain promises turn out, as Richard Nixon said, to be inoperative. What we find is that the Re-Mor clients were told by the Premier (Mr. Davis)—I heard him; I cannot imitate the Premier too well; obviously, if I could, I might have been elected—but, roughly speaking, he said something like this: "Oh, I can give you my personal assurance that those people have nothing to worry about. We are going to speed up the Re-Mor case. It is just a test case of some kind. I can give you my personal assurance that the people who lost their money in Re-Mor do not have to worry. Everything will just be fine." He gave "my personal assurance."

4:20 p.m.

Now we find that unless the Re-Mor clients can jump through every legal hoop that this government, using public funds and hiring a battery of lawyers, can throw up in front of them; unless they can prove bad faith occurred in the Re-Mor licensing, they are not going to get their money—a promise which has been rendered inoperative.

We find the same with rent review. The Premier said it would be unaltered, but that was during the election. Now we are told we have the new "reality of March 19." We are told we do not understand the reality of March 19; which is, of course, that whatever was said

before is inoperative afterwards. We are told that there would be "fine tuning" in the rent review. The small matter of the six per cent guideline would be altered by some two per cent or maybe four per cent. That is fine tuning.

They forgot to mention it during the election, when they said it would be unaltered. They just did not think of it because it was so minor, so trivial. Who would even think of mentioning it during an election? But in 1977 the precise matter of a difference of a half of one per cent in the guideline was taken as a matter of no confidence. An election was called on the issue by the same Premier and the same Deputy Premier, who said that was a matter of such fundamental importance that we had to have an election on that issue. Now it is a matter so trivial that it was not even mentioned during the election campaign.

I know what they are thinking across the way; I am not stupid. They are thinking, "Who gives two hoots? The people will have forgotten, four years from now, and we will buy their votes again with another spree of gifts in every riding. We will come up with something as glamorous as a BILD program, and who will remember the ancient history of four years earlier, or even three, two or one year earlier?"

I know that type of politics. I understand it. It was not invented by those fellows opposite, although they have become masters at it. But one on the side of right is a majority, and I tell the House that if they tamper with that rent review guideline, it will mean they lied to the people of Ontario during the election campaign. That is God's truth. At least some people in Ontario will remember that, I am convinced, even if the rest do not.

Mr. McClellan: Ruprecht is campaigning already. You should tell him to stop.

Mr. Smith: The excellent member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht) has come up to consult with the excellent member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley). He wanted to get a little closer in order to hear my comments a little better. I can appreciate that. I would invite the member for Bellwoods to move a little closer as well.

I realize he had a very close call. What was it—400 votes or so?

Mr. McClellan: It was 395.

Mr. Smith: I understand that he is a bit nervous. But let him get a little closer; we won't bite.

I want to speak about two matters now, before I draw my remarks to a close and present an amendment to the throne speech motion.

First, I want to talk about energy. I mentioned earlier the reversion to the policy of "live better electrically." We are now going to have a policy in which all the eggs will be put in the nuclear basket. That is a very big mistake. The notion that Ontario should put all its billions of dollars strictly into the expansion of our nuclear system is, in my view, a mistaken notion. Of course nuclear power is with us, and of course it provides a very important and essential part of the energy mosaic in Ontario, and it will continue to do so. But to put all our billions into the expansion of the nuclear system at this time in my view is wrongheaded.

Our problem is not electricity. After all, why did they cancel Wesleyville and lose $160 million? They cancelled it on the basis that even if it were to change to coal, they said, there would be no need for that electrical generating capacity. Yet they are rushing ahead with billions of dollars to build more nuclear capacity. We have not yet solved the problem of the disposal of nuclear waste, yet they are moving ahead.

But the most important thing wrong with moving ahead with the nuclear program is that it fails to address Ontario's real problem. That is the drain of billions of dollars out of this province to buy oil and, specifically, to buy gasoline. Our problem is that one has no choice but to run around in this province in automobiles. It is going to stay that way. It is not going to change dramatically, even if we improve transit. We need a substitute fuel for gasoline and, at the moment, electrifying people's homes and trying to persuade them—as Kate Reid does in those commercials—that natural gas is imported when it is not imported, it is Canadian, is not the answer. We need a substitute fuel for the automobile. That is what Ontario needs, because we have no oil.

But we have many other resources in Ontario that can be harnessed to make automobiles go. We can make fuel alcohol. If one wants to use electricity to produce hydrogen then I am willing to discuss it; but there is no real commitment to hydrogen production from Darlington. Darlington is going to be brought on stream either to heat homes or to export. Frankly, my suspicion is that from beginning to end the intention is to export electricity rather than to have an intelligent energy program for Ontario to free us from the tyranny of oil at the gas pump. Instead of that we are going to put all our eggs in the nuclear electricity basket and, frankly, that is a great error. We also have tremendous peat resources which should be utilized immediately to substitute for oil.

I just want to finish by saying a few words about inflation. I said earlier that the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer. What is really happening now is that a division is occurring in the middle of the middle class in this province and in this country. Those who have money to invest in RRSPs and can direct the RRSPs into commodities of various kinds, those with money to buy condominiums, those with money to buy antiques and other commodities that will increase in value are profiting from inflation at the time. Those who have houses in Toronto are obviously profiting from inflation right now.

Those who do not have money after they take their pay packet home and pay for the staples—the milk, the bread, the basic shelter, the gasoline to get back and forth to work and a little bit of recreation—those who do not have that extra money are being robbed day by day in a transfer of wealth from them into the pockets of those who are wealthy enough to invest in various hedges against inflation. That line between those on the one hand who have cash to invest or who have pension funds investing for them, and those on the other hand who have no pension funds or who have no cash to invest and who are being robbed daily, is now becoming a gulf and little by little the middle class is going to be eroded in this country and we will end up a polarized country and province similar to Britain. That is where we are heading right now.

4:30 p.m.

Mr. Laughren: You could have helped by not supporting the abolition of the succession duties tax.

Mr. Smith: I will get to that in a moment. That is where we are heading right now and the fact remains that we are going to have to take steps to make sure the middle class is protected against inflation.

There are two things we could do immediately provincially—there are a lot of things we could do federally including taxing certain profits and certain gains—but we could do two things provincially. First, we could make home ownership possible because a home is the best hedge against inflation for the average citizen. Second, we could make sure everybody is a member of a decent pension fund. These are things we can do in Ontario.

We have no right to come before the people with this speech from the throne—which, if one read it, one would imagine inflation was not even a problem in Ontario today—we have no right to sit on our hands and talk as the folks across the way do about their great majority unless they are prepared to take drastic action to bring pensions and home ownership into the realm of average working people in Ontario.

That is a commitment we in this party will make and it may be another four years before we can implement it but, by God, we will do it eventually.

Just think about it. I don't know the origins of all the members opposite in terms of social or economic class, but just think about it. Some of them I am sure come from poor families. Some of them I am sure worked their way up from poor families and just think what it is to be working in a factory and earning—I am not even saying a small salary—let us say earning $15,000 or $16,000 a year.

Just think of that in today's inflation and knowing one has no real pension fund sitting there waiting for one and knowing one is going to find oneself in a few years' time with a dollar that, even as low as its purchasing power is today, will only be worth 37 cents in 10 or 15 years. Put oneself in that situation. What conceivable protection will these people have? They will be a class of the most poverty stricken elderly in the history of this country if we do not do something for them. We have to get decent pension coverage for these people in the midst of this inflation.

It is a virtual emergency and I would say to the House that we should bend every effort to move quickly in this regard and it is a shame and a travesty there is no mention of this vital problem in the speech from the throne.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have gone on at some length but basically the speech from the throne is a most inadequate document. As I say, it was necessary to pretend everything was great in Ontario because it would have been an embarrassment after that slogan-riddled, jingle jangle election campaign to come out and say, "Everything Smith said was actually true and now we are going to try to do something about it."

They had to have a speech from the throne that pretended everything was great and Ontario was on the way to more and more marvellous achievements but we are in plenty of trouble in Ontario. It has to be dealt with and it has to be dealt with sincerely and soon.

We set aside this speech from the throne as a silly document that is basically the epilogue of an even sillier election campaign, which managed the great tribute of both a Tory majority and the lowest voting turnout in the history of

Ontario, a great achievement of the geniuses opposite. But we say we trust this speech from the throne is not to be taken seriously as prologue for the next four years, or else Ontario is in very serious trouble. Because we find it so inadequate and because we believe the government itself is a stale government that has run out of ideas, I wish to move an amendment to the motion.

The Deputy Speaker: Mr. Smith moves that the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session be amended by the addition of the following words:

This assembly, however, regrets that the speech from the throne fails to recognize the most serious and fundamental problems facing Ontario today and condemns the government for all the following:

Refusing to recognize Ontario's industrial decline and the need for a definitive and industrial strategy as well as massive retraining programs for Ontario workers;

Having no policies to help low- and middle-income earners avoid further hardship from the effects of rapidly rising prices;

Presenting no specific programs to help small businesses, farmers and home owners to deal with record high interest rates;

Failing to address or act upon the crisis of escalating housing costs which are making the dream of owning a home an impossibility for average Ontarians;

Proposing no legislation, despite a previous commitment, to provide adequate and definitive levels of severance pay for Ontario workers who are laid off their jobs;

Making no new or increased financial commitment for the development of Ontario's health, social and education sectors, specifically towards hospitals, day care, services for the elderly and post-secondary institutions;

Pursuing a shameful policy of harassment with regard to victims of the government's mistake on Re-Mor investments, instead of accepting proper responsibility for ensuring adequate and equitable compensation for these people;

Failing to protect against the sale of large amounts of Ontario's most valuable farm land to foreign buyers;

Undermining the provincial rent review program by threatening to alter the present guidelines;

Placing excessive and unwise emphasis on the development of electricity to meet Ontario's future energy requirements, instead of utilizing abundant and indigenous renewable and alternative sources.

Therefore, this assembly declares its total lack of confidence in the government.

On motion by Mr. Cassidy, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

CONTENTS

Monday, April 27, 1981

Members' indemnities, statement by Mr. Speaker. 89

Statement by the ministry

Timbrell, Hon. D. R., Minister of Health:

OHIP benefits. 89

Oral questions

Norton, Hon. K. C., Minister of the Environment:

Testing of pesticides, Mr. Nixon. 89

Davis, Hon. W. G., Premier:

Ontario Hydro rental space, Mr. Nixon, Mr. MacDonald, Mr. J. A. Reed. 90

Bennett, Hon. C. F., Minister of Housing:

Housing prices, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ruprecht, Mr. Philip. 92

Timbrell, Hon. D. R., Minister of Health:

OHIP benefits, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. McClellan, Mr. Nixon. 94
Urea-formaldehyde foam insulation, Mr. Swart, Mr. Nixon. 96

Walker, Hon. G. W., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations:

Astra/Re-Mor, Mr. Bradley, Mr. Swart. 95

Ashe, Hon. G. L., Minister of Revenue:

Aid to pensioners, Ms. Copps, Mr. Nixon, Mr. Breithaupt. 96, 98

Henderson, Hon. L. C., Minister of Agriculture and Food:

Housing for seasonal farm workers, Mr. Sheppard. 97

Grossman, Hon. L. S., Minister of Industry and Tourism:

Automobile industry, Mr. Cooke, Mr. Wrye, Mr. O'Neil. 98
Transfer of juvenile offenders, point of privilege, Mr. Boudria, Mr. Drea. 100
Camping on crown land, point of order, Mr. T. P. Reid, Mr. Pope. 101

Petitions

Annual report, Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, Mr. Bradley. 101

First readings

Labour Relations Amendment Act, Bill 8, Mr. Mackenzie. 101

Labour Relations Amendment Act, Bill 9, Mr. Mackenzie. 101

Labour Relations Amendment Act, Bill 10, Mr. Mackenzie. 101

Labour Relations Amendment Act, Bill 11, Mr. Mackenzie. 101

Labour Relations Amendment Act, Bill 12, Mr. Mackenzie. 102

Labour Relations Amendment Act, Bill 13, Mr. Mackenzie. 102

Labour Relations Amendment Act, Bill 14, Mr. Mackenzie. 102

Labour Relations Amendment Act, Bill 15, Mr. Mackenzie. 102

Labour Relations Amendment Act, Bill 16, Mr. Mackenzie. 102

Employment Standards Amendment Act, Bill 17, Mr. Martel. 102

Motion to suspend normal business

Housing prices, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ruprecht, Mr. Wells, Mr. Speaker; negatived. 102

Throne speech debate

Mr. Smith. 105

Adjournment. 114

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Ashe, Hon. G. L.; Minister of Revenue (Durham West PC)
Baetz, Hon. R. C.; Minister of Culture and Recreation (Ottawa West PC)
Bennett, Hon. C. F.; Minister of Housing (Ottawa South PC)
Boudria, D (Prescott-Russell L)
Bradley, J. J. (St. Catharines L)
Breithaupt, J. R. (Kitchener L)
Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
Cureatz, S. L.; Deputy Speaker (Durham East PC)
Davis, Hon. W. G.; Premier (Brampton PC)
Grossman, Hon. L. S.; Minister of Industry and Tourism (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
Henderson, Hon. L. C.; Minister of Agriculture and Food (Lambton PC)
Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)
MacDonald, D. C. (York South NDP)
Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)
Mancini, R. (Essex South L)
Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
Norton, Hon. K. C.; Minister of the Environment (Kingston and the Islands PC)
O'Neil, H. P. (Quinte L)
Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)
Pope, Hon. A. W.; Minister of Natural Resources (Cochrane South PC)
Reed, J. A. (Halton-Burlington L)
Reid, T. P. (Rainy River L-Lab.)
Ruprecht, T. (Parkdale L)
Sheppard, H. N. (Northumberland PC)
Smith, S. L. (Hamilton West L)
Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Timbrell, Hon. D. R.; Minister of Health (Don Mills PC)
Turner, Hon. J. M.; Speaker (Peterborough PC)
Walker, Hon. G. W.; Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Provincial Secretary for Justice (London South PC)
Wells, Hon. T. L.; Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Scarborough North PC)
Wrye, W. M. (Windsor-Sandwich L)

Ontario

No. 5

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



First Session, Thirty-Second Parliament
Tuesday, April 28, 1981
Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

Hansard subscription price is $15.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Central Purchasing Service, Print Procurement Section, Ministry of Government Services, 8th Floor, Ferguson Block, Parliament Buildings, Toronto M7A 1N3. Phone (416) 965-2238.

Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 1981

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. Smith: With respect, Mr. Speaker, it would appear that a very small minority of the ministry is here. The Premier (Mr. Davis) is not here. There are just seven out of 26 or 27 members of cabinet here.

Mr. Hennessy: That is good counting.

Mr. T. P. Reid: That is not the quality either.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, would you kindly inquire to see whether at least half the ministry will be present for question period today? We are only into the first week of the new Parliament, which has just achieved a majority victory. The turnout of cabinet is even lower than the turnout of voters at the polls.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I might say to my friend that there are a number of ministers here concerned with large departments. Perhaps he could use his ingenuity and think of questions to ask some of the ministers who are here.

Mr. Smith: I see the Premier is arriving. I will wait for him to take his seat, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hennessy: No problem. Start again.

Mr. Smith: I have a feeling that the member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy) requires attention for a certain ringing in his ears that he has from time to time.

Hon. Mr. Davis: He certainly rang your bell on March 19.

Mr. Smith: He did indeed and I answered but, unfortunately, there was no one there.

Interjections.

HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, since the Premier sets the priorities for his government, I would ask how he is able to justify the fact reported on page seven of chairman Weiler's report on physicians' compensation that from 1975 to 1980—and I am quoting now—Ontario has been dead last of the 10 provinces in its rate of increase in total health expenditures as well as dead last among the 10 provinces in hospital and medical insurance in particular.

Mr. Nixon: That is tenth out of 10.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell) will be here very shortly, and I am sure he will be delighted to engage the Leader of the Opposition in more detailed discussion. I think one has to be very careful, in making these determinations or comparisons, of the base which one uses for the establishment of the rate of percentage growth.

I think it is fair to state, when one starts out in a jurisdiction whose services may not be as abundant as they are here and which has a much lower base, that as they expand those services, then of course the percentage increase tends to be higher. When one is starting from a fairly significant base, where there is a variety of services of great quality and excellence in Ontario, then perhaps the percentage rate of increase may not be as high as in those jurisdictions where that is not the case.

Mr. Smith: If the Premier is answering essentially that the percentage may be misleading because Ontario perhaps was starting from a different base, a much higher base, and the actual amount should be considered, will the Premier be good enough to read further on the same page where it points out that per capita expenditures on hospital and medical insurance were only $386 in Ontario in 1979-1980 as compared with $408 in Canada as a whole? So not only is the percentage lower, the total amount happens to be lower in Ontario.

Can he explain why he does not give the answer that his officials gave to chairman Weiler? If I might, I will quote just one sentence: "The response of government spokesmen is that the rate of increase had to be lower in terms of health because"—and this will be familiar to those who followed the recent election—"the rate of increase in the Ontario gross provincial product from 1975 through 1980 has also consistently lagged well behind the increase in Canada-wide gross national product"—that sounds familiar—"as have increases in Ontario's average weekly earnings."

Since the explanation given to Professor

Weiler by the Premier's own officials was the very slow growth in Ontario's economy, why did he not give us the same answer here today? Or does it ring certain other bells in his mind from the recent election campaign?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I can recall many bells that were rung during the election campaign. I can refer to 70 on this side of the House that rang very clearly on March 19. Quite obviously, the point the Leader of the Opposition was endeavouring to make did not register across this province with any great clarity or certainly with any great degree of support. If he wants to introduce partisan observations into all of his questions, I can reply in kind.

Mr. Roy: You bought it fair and square.

2:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have to tell those who always lose and are disappointed that they always try to find some excuse other than their own inadequacies. The fact they had no policies, no great leadership and had not really conducted themselves too well as a party and confused the electorate in this province by their flip-flops on very many issues, they will never understand that as being—

Mr. Sargent: Quit patting yourself on the back all the time.

Hon. Mr. Davis: If that party was so great, why did the member for Quinte (Mr. O'Neil) run almost as an independent for weeks? I was down in his riding.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask the Premier to ignore the interjections, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I couldn't even find the word "Liberal" on his stuff.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Speaker, on a point of personal privilege: I am always very pleased to have the Premier in my riding, but the people just do not seem to welcome him as they did in years past. I think they realize what kind of a government he is running.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have to tell the member, I was in riding after riding and the word "Liberal" just never appeared anywhere in the horizon. I saw more of his signs at the meeting I attended. I was over to the great riding of Erie, and the local Liberal candidate there spent his whole election budget at the one meeting I attended to remind people he was running. I was there; I saw it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, to get back to the question: I did not say that the potential explanation I offered covered all of the multitude of reasons. I am not going to debate with some officials who observed that over the past period of time the growth rate in the gross provincial product has been somewhat less—

Mr. Smith: Dead last.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Just a minute. The member got into this game during the campaign and he knows where he ended up, because that is not the reality and he knows it. There is also the problem that is inherent in any statistical approach to these "per capita expenditures." We have a larger per capita population in this province than others do. If one looks at these comparisons, one will find one can trot them out—in the educational field—anywhere one likes. The reality is that in terms of the quality of service, in terms of the variety of medical service that is available in this province, I will stack that up against any other province in Canada. That happens to be a reality.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. McClellan: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: In view of the documented reduction in per capita contributions to the health care system since the introduction of established program funding and in view of the no-strings-attached settlement announced yesterday, can the Premier assure the members of the Legislature that there will not be a premium increase in the Treasurer's budget which will sock yesterday's increase onto the consumers of health care in this province?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member knows full well that I am in no position to indicate what may or may not be in the Treasurer's budget.

Ms. Copps: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Since the government is so quick to act vis-a-vis the Weiler report recommendations on doctors' salaries, is the government prepared to act with the same expediency on the issue of the Workmen's Compensation Board and the Weiler recommendations for disabled workers?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, out of respect for the new member, I will not suggest, with respect, that that is hardly a supplementary and that it does not relate to the main question.

Mr. Laughren: The Speaker will decide that.

Mr. Nixon: The Speaker isn't objecting.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am not raising that. I am not objecting either. Out of respect for the new member I pointed it out. Out of respect for the new member I am not objecting. But I am

pointing out that in my humble opinion it probably is not supplementary to the main question.

If the honourable member is asking when the government intends to introduce legislation related to the Weiler report, I think she will find that referred to in the throne speech, and I anticipate legislation this spring.

Mr. Breaugh: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Since the Premier so readily accepted this dramatic increase of just under 15 per cent—between $10,000 and $12,000 per annum—is that meant to be the government's mark for the industry? Therefore, can the hospital workers who are sitting out there waiting for an arbitration award anticipate that they will be treated in exactly the same manner as the physicians?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, knowing the honourable member's great interest in the objectivity of these proceedings, knowing he would be the first one who would object if the government gave any indication as to what it felt the arbitrator or the arbitration might or might not do, knowing he would be the first one to hit the roof if we ever did that, he will understand if I do not wish to pass any comment when the arbitration is in process.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, my second question is for the Minister of Health. According to my reading of the report of the Joint Committee on Physicians' Compensation for Professional Services, it would seem the matter of the percentage of doctors opted out of the Ontario health insurance plan was not part of the negotiation with the doctors; at least there is no reference made to it in the report itself. Can the minister confirm whether the percentage of doctors opting out was part of the negotiation? If not, why not?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member or any honourable member will take the time to read the terms of reference of the joint committee on physicians' compensation, he will see its sole reason for existence is to negotiate increases in the fee schedule, and that is all.

Mr. Smith: The minister himself has frequently said one of the reasons it might be wise to give a sort of catch-up increase to the doctors is the hope it will attract them back into the plan. The minister has said that, and I think he will acknowledge it since it clearly is desirable.

Since the minister himself said a year ago he would like to have the doctors opted back in to about the level of several years ago, when it was acceptable to all sides—I think those were his words—can I ask why the minister did not undertake to make that part of the negotiating process? Furthermore, when he is on his feet can he say, now that the doctors have been given more money, what level of opting out will be acceptable to his government and how long it will take before that level is reached?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: First, I do not think I have ever used the term "catch-up." It is used in one or two places in the Weiler report, but I have not used that term. I certainly have acknowledged and expressed the opinion that in my view we could return to what has been the 10-year norm, or close to it, through negotiation rather than confrontation, because I still believe strongly that the kinds of things recommended by some honourable members opposite would lead to a devastating confrontation that could only undermine our health plan.

We have been able to get the opting-out figures down considerably. Last month they fell to about 15.4 or 15.5 per cent; that is a percentage of the doctors billing the plan. The more meaningful figure, and I submit to the Leader of the Opposition the one he should be going by, is the figure that relates to the percentage of claims that are extra-billed. When I say extra-billed, I mean as little as a dollar or two over OHIP, and that is down around seven per cent. I submit it is not the problem the Leader of the Opposition or his federal colleagues make it out to be.

I understood during the campaign the Leader of the Opposition said that if opting out was around 10 or 12 per cent he would be pleased. In fact, it is around seven per cent. I assume he is ecstatic.

Mr. Smith: On a point of privilege: I will discuss it later but, just briefly, the minister knows very well I was referring to the 10 per cent of doctors opting out, and not to claims. He knows very well that is the more meaningful statistic, but I will debate that at another time.

Mr. Martel: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: The minister indicated yesterday he did not feel we should prevent opting out. Can the minister tell me what we are supposed to do with individuals who receive bills—despite the 14 or 15 per cent increase that is coming—of $1,449.50, of which only $904 is covered; in the case of a second doctor dealing with the same problem, of $405, of which only $281 is covered; and, with the third doctor involved in the same operation, of $186, with only $129 covered; when this

gentleman, who is 78 years of age, has to pay some $725? Does the minister not think doctors now have enough that they should not be allowed to do this sort of nonsense?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I think what the member does is exactly what he has apparently done and what he told me yesterday he had done: written to me with the details. I have not received it. I checked, by the way, as soon as I got back to my office yesterday afternoon. We have not received the letter. As soon as we do, we will be in touch with the medical association.

2:20 p.m.

We have found in the past that in those cases where the physicians and the patients have not been able to work it out themselves—and I have no idea what contact there has been between this patient and the referring physician or the specialist—that it can be resolved.

I submit to the honourable member again that the kinds of things he is proposing would lead, in Ontario, to what has happened in the one province the New Democrats do govern, namely, Saskatchewan, where they are still short of doctors, thanks to what they did 19 years ago.

Mr. Van Horne: Final supplementary, Mr. Speaker: I want to go back to my leader's question and the answer given by the minister. The minister seems to indicate that the percentage of 15.4 is acceptable. Is that the case? The other percentage of services, which I think he indicated was down to around seven per cent; is that also acceptable? What limit is the minister prepared to accept?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, again I submit that 15.4 or 15.5—I am not sure of the percentage point—is not the relevant figure. There are many doctors in this province who are well known to all members of the House, who have never been opted in to the medicare plan and who have never billed above OHIP. If they do, it is very selective.

It is interesting to watch the Leader of the Opposition. He has tried to be all things to all people and, depending on which one he talks to, the doctors believe he has different positions. He has now decided to join the doctor bashing of the NDP. I want to make that very clear.

The extra billing is around seven per cent. I believe we can get that down even lower, now that we have a settlement for 1981, and we will not have to do it in such a way that will totally disrupt the health plan.

COMPANY QUESTIONNAIRE

Mr. Martel: I have a question of the Premier. Mr. Speaker. You will recall that some months ago I raised the matter involving Canadian Blower-Canada Pumps Limited and its questionnaire dealing with consumption of alcohol, compensation, women's menstrual cycles, sexual activities and so on.

A recent article in the press stated that Robert Adare, president of Canadian Blower, indicates that his latest questionnaire to the commission has been rejected as unacceptable but that other companies continue to use this type of questionnaire.

Howard Jones of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, when approached, gave the following response: "We have to respond to a situation when it is brought to our attention. If other companies are brought to our attention, we will have to look into these as well."

If Mr. Adare is aware that other companies are using this type of questionnaire, is it not possible for the government of Ontario or the human rights commission to find out who in this province is using this offensive type of questionnaire and to insist that the practice be discontinued immediately?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, my recollection is that the Minister of Labour (Mr. Elgie) made some observations on this. I have not had any communication on the subject, but I will discuss this with the Minister of Labour.

The honourable member says a Mr. Adare knows of other companies that are doing this. Perhaps the human rights commission or the ministry may get in touch with him to find out who these other companies are. Certainly this government does not support the use of such a questionnaire, and the minister made this very clear. I will have another discussion with him.

Mr. Martel: Perhaps the Premier can get it stopped, at least temporarily, until the human rights commission amendments are introduced. Certainly no such provision was in the last bill presented to the Legislature. And can we have assurance that it will become an offence in Ontario to use this type of questionnaire, which is so discriminatory towards women?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I think the Minister of Labour will give that every consideration. He is going to be here a little later on, and I will make a point of raising it with him.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, my next question is to the Minister of Natural Resources. Can the minister tell us whether his ministry supports and is committed to the occupational health and safety provisions which guarantee the rights of employees to refuse work in conditions they believe to be dangerous to their health?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, the ministry supports the laws of Ontario.

Mr. Martel: I have an internal memo from the executive co-ordinator of the pest control section of the Ministry of Natural Resources concerning this year's pesticide spraying program, which states in part: "In fact, any staff who seriously object to working with pesticides should be transferred to other work programs. The maintenance of management prerogative is not worth the possibility of media reports that we are forcing people to work with poisonous chemicals. In order to avoid the possibility of not having enough willing staff to carry out spray programs, managers may wish to ascertain candidates' attitudes on pesticides during job interviews."

Is it not clear that this is an attempt by the ministry to get around the right to refuse work for prospective new employees who might have some concerns about their health when using such pesticides as 2,4-D?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Not necessarily. I will look at the memo. I assume that the job descriptions of certain employees would relate to those hiring policies.

Mr. Martel: Since when has it become the government's policy to hire on a basis of occupational health attitudes?

Hon. Mr. Pope: I did not say that.

INTEREST RATES

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Agriculture and Food before he gets away on me.

Interjections.

Mr. Riddell: Just further evidence of the government's arrogance and smartness. Their arrogance is going to lead to their political demise in four years' time.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Riddell, did you have a question?

Mr. Riddell: A question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food, Mr. Speaker: In the light of the minister's statement in the Legislature last Friday, the day after the Liberal call for an emergency debate on high interest rates for farmers and what it is doing to the farming industry, leading the minister to establish a committee on farm financing, can the minister tell us exactly what was accomplished at that meeting yesterday? What contribution did he make at that meeting? What proposals for action came out of the meeting? Was there any agreement for a second meeting? And does the minister plan to take any action to help our farmers survive the effects of spiralling interest rates?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, there appear to be quite a number of answers there.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Number one, last Friday I announced that I had asked a group of people to sit down together—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: It is quite clear. I can get it out. It is in Hansard. Before I answer that part, Mr. Speaker, I also told the House that I requested the federal Minister of Agriculture to call a meeting of the provincial ministers of agriculture across Canada. I told the members I had an acknowledgement of that request but actually no response at all.

Number two, in response to the member for Huron-Middlesex, that committee met yesterday morning at 10 o'clock.

Mr. Riddell: Good.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: They are knowledgeable people. I went to the meeting along with my parliamentary assistant. We pointed out to the people sitting on that committee all our concerns about the high cost of agricultural production to the farmers of Ontario. We pointed out the decreased price that the farmers were receiving for their hogs and for their beef. We asked the committee to sit down and look at the overall situation.

The chairman of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association is on that committee. The hog producers gave three names; one of their representatives was there, as were the president and the vice-president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, plus members of my staff. When I was at the meeting the government of Canada representative had not turned up yet. Whether he got there or not, I do not know, but that committee met yesterday and I do not have a report from them yet. I hope to get an independent report from them.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Riddell: While we are talking about this and while these committees are meeting, there are more farmers going bankrupt. Can the farmers of Ontario expect immediate relief, some kind of assistance from this government before any more bankruptcies take place? When is the government going to get serious about implementing programs similar to programs in other provinces so that our farmers can continue to compete against those farmers in other provinces?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: My ministry is very concerned about the statement the honourable member has just made about farm bankruptcies. Will he be kind enough to give me a list of five of those bankruptcies that he knows about? My staff will be glad to look into it and see if there have been any misgivings on behalf of the lenders. Will he give me the list he is talking about?

Mr. MacDonald: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Will the Minister of Agriculture and Food, as a token gesture of action with regard to this great concern of his, raise with his cabinet colleagues whether the unexpended portion of the pre-election allocation for easing this burden on the farm front might not be reinstituted? Admittedly, it is not the whole solution, but it would be some action. Will he consider that?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, my cabinet colleagues are fully aware and are concerned. They are not talking politically; they are looking at the situation.

Mr. Smith: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Is it not a fact that, at the meeting referred to by the member for Huron-Middlesex, the minister only walked in and out of that meeting and spent very little time there? Is it not a fact that nothing was accomplished, no report was produced and the group has not even made any decision to meet a second time? Is it not a fact that the entire meeting was useless and a waste of time and it is just like everything else he has been doing in this matter, window dressing without substance?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is stating something of which I am not aware. Nobody has told me that the meeting was a waste of time. I expect a report. I will be very disappointed if the president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture does not give us some input. The Leader of the Opposition apparently has a report that I do not have.

REMARKS BY PAUL FROMM

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Premier. This morning's Globe and Mail reported the election of Paul Fromm as the new treasurer of the federal Progressive Conservative Party organization in Metropolitan Toronto. It also reports his belief that a supreme race "is a good idea." It goes on: "Mr. Fromm interprets his election as an unmistakable sign that the organization is finally seeing the light, which is more than he can say for Premier William Davis, the leader of the Ontario Tories."

A direct quote: "I have been very, very unhappy with (him). I don't see him as a Conservative. I think he has brought in some very repressive human rights legislation."

May I ask the Premier whether he is willing to tolerate such neofascist if not fascist ideas within the Conservative Party? If not, is he going to publicly repudiate it or have the man disbarred or ejected from the party organization?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I have not read that article. I do not know the particular individual. I gather from what the member has read to me that the gentleman in question does not totally endorse all the enlightened policies of this government. I gather from what the member said that he is a member of a federal Conservative organization. I do not believe, from what has been read to me, that he is part of the provincial, Metro or province-wide associations.

Mr. MacDonald: If the Premier is now arguing, as he accuses the Liberals of having such separation, that he has no contact or control over the federal wing of his party, will he at least communicate with the federal leader of the party and request that he do with regard to this man what a previous leader of the party did with a racist in Moncton and repudiate him as a candidate or as an official of the party?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I certainly will take a look at this. I assure the honourable member that I do not know who this person is and I have not read that story in the Globe and Mail. I do not know him at all.

ALGONQUIN COLLEGE

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Colleges and Universities: Is the minister aware of the situation at Algonquin College where the latest budget proposals being considered by the board of governors tomorrow would eliminate 73 full-time employees, cancel

more than a dozen programs now being offered and cut back on plans for new programs, despite the fact that demand for the next education year is at an all-time high of 15,000 to 18,000 students? Is the minister aware of this situation, and what is she going to do about it?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I am aware that Algonquin has been facing some internal problems which I believe are en route to being solved at the present time with the taking of office of a new chairman of that board and the examination of their programs—as has been requested of all colleges, since they are developed to respond to the training requirements for employment opportunities within the province—to ensure that they are meeting those requirements, rather than continuing to offer courses which perhaps have no employment opportunities at the end for students.

I am aware that most of the colleges have exercised their responsibilities in that area. It is my understanding that the Algonquin board is attempting to make that exercise right now. I anticipate that there will be some reasonable solutions to some of the problems which appear to be present within Algonquin College at this time.

Mr. Wrye: Is the minister aware that one of the cutbacks being proposed is in the health services clinic? It would save $100,000 but reduce the clinic operations to one full-time nurse. Is she aware that the clinic case load last year was more than 31,000 and that almost two dozen severely handicapped students rely on the clinic for their very attendance at Algonquin? Does she consider these cutbacks appropriate, particularly in the International Year of Disabled Persons?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The decisions about the administration and the distribution of funding within the college itself are the responsibility of the board of governors in the administration of that college. I am sure that board and that administration are looking very carefully at the appropriate places in which to modify their circumstances at this time. I am not aware of any specific reduction in the health services provided to the students. That I will have a look at.

Mr. Roy: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: I want to ask the minister if she is not concerned at heading a ministry whose policy is so inconsistent that there is a situation in Ottawa-Carleton at present where in the Carleton Board of Education there is construction of new schools at the cost of about $20 million, the Ottawa Board of Education is closing schools and at the same time Algonquin College, needing funds to establish such programs or accelerate programs such as high technology, is having to cut back.

Is the minister's only response that that is an internal problem of Algonquin College? Why does the minister not see the problems existing in Ottawa-Carleton and ensure that her government and her ministry give Algonquin College sufficient funds to meet its vocation in Ottawa-Carleton?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the member obviously is not aware at all of what has been going on in relationships between the Ottawa Board of Education and Algonquin College. There have been negotiations completed related to the development of specific high-technology courses, utilizing facilities that are available within the board of education on a lease basis by Algonquin College.

The member has to be aware, I am sure, that there are further discussions of this sort, because we have encouraged the colleges to look very carefully at the potential use of secondary school institutions that are no longer required by boards of education.

I hope the member will be supportive of some of the solutions that we have suggested in terms of solving the accommodation problems for the Carleton board by persuading some of his friends on the Ottawa board to be a little more open and a little more generous in their attitudes about negotiations for transfers of schools.

OPP INVESTIGATION OF HOSPITAL STRIKE

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Provincial Secretary for Justice. I want to ask the minister, now that it has been almost three months since the hospital strike ended, why the Ontario Provincial Police is continuing what it terms itself one of its most massive investigations into the activities surrounding that strike. Why, three months after the strike has reached some form of resolution—I was going to say a settlement, but it is hardly that—is the OPP continuing to investigate and to harass those hospital workers? What is the purpose of all that expenditure and all that time by the provincial police?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Solicitor General (Mr. McMurtry), in whose jurisdiction this falls, would be able to give a

more definitive answer at a more appropriate time. However, my suspicion is the investigation is taking longer to complete than expected.

2:40 p.m.

Mr. Breaugh: Since those hospital workers have now got back to work and we are beginning to get some peace in the hospitals again, why does the minister not simply declare an amnesty for those hospital workers and dispense with it? Why is this kind of tactic still necessary today?

Hon. Mr. Walker: I think it is probably appropriate that justice be done and that justice appear to be done.

Ms. Copps: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Does the minister feel justice is justice for one and justice for all, or does he feel that some hospital workers at some institutions should be penalized more severely than other hospital workers at other institutions involved in the same illegal strike?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, that is an impossible question to answer. One would have to look at each individual case on its merits.

Mr. Breaugh: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Could the minister offer some rationale to this House since this is not the first hospital strike we have had in this province this year? In fact, we had two previous hospital strikes by interns and residents. Will the minister explain to the House why in that case the government did not even seek an injunction, let alone conduct this kind of massive police operation?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, in the light of the behaviour displayed by the particular union, by the officials and by the individuals who went out, I think the government had no choice under the circumstances but to pursue it in a way that would be respected by the public.

BEER AT BALL PARK

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, this is to my friend the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. I want to offer him another opportunity of being consistent in his inconsistency in his new role. Will he allow a chap to have a glass of beer at the ball park this spring as one watches the ball games? Why does he not change it as he has changed everything else?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, do I assume the honourable member for London Centre is advocating on behalf of his party that there be beer in the ball park?

Mr. Peterson: Of course I am.

Hon. Mr. Walker: I would like to accept that submission on the part of the Liberal Party, and I will certainly take it under consideration and perhaps at some time it will be answered.

Mr. Peterson: No less an authority than Eber Rice has called for a re-evaluation of these archaic programs, which the minister is now supervising and, given the fact he has demonstrated his capacity to change his mind on almost everything and change government policy in the two weeks he has had the portfolio, why does he not now change on something sensible? Why deny people this spring?

PRICES IN NORTHERN ONTARIO

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Speaker, as my first question in this House in five and a half years, I want to ask the Premier how often and how long is it going to be that I should have to confront the Premier with the fact we still have places in Ontario where gasoline is selling for $5 a gallon, where motor oil is selling for $4 a quart, where a loaf of bread is selling for $2.25, where an apple is 50 cents, where a dozen eggs are $3 and where a can of Carnation milk is worth $1.25?

Will the Premier look at two alternatives to the plight facing all those people living in Ontario north of the 50th parallel, principally first citizens, where we have an opportunity if we emulate what the Department of Northern Saskatchewan is doing in subsidizing the cost of perishable goods in that area? Will he look at that program? Will he also look at the program that has been in effect out of Val-d'Or in northern Quebec, where Canada Post is shipping perishable goods to those northern communities, providing the kind of relief that should be provided to my constituents, the constituents in Kenora and the constituents in Cochrane North? When is he going to answer the letter that I sent to him jointly with the Honourable John Munro, dated March 16, to bring some relief to those people who have been neglected for far too long?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, you do not know how refreshing it is to have a very good question—in fact, a series of questions—from the former Speaker. I now feel better about the length of some of the answers I gave when he was the Speaker of this assembly. My conscience does not bother me nearly as much. In fact, it does not bother me at all.

I would not quarrel at all with the substance of the question. I know how sincere the honourable member is related to this particular prob-

lem, about which he has communicated to me. I would only say to him that this is an issue being discussed within the Ministry of Northern Affairs. It is a matter that gives us concern too; it is complex without any easy solutions. But I assure the honourable member that the Ministry of Northern Affairs is looking into the questions that he has raised, plus some other that perhaps he will yet raise, not by way of supplementary, I hope, but when we have some further discussion within the ministry.

Mr. Stokes: Will the Premier initiate a meeting with the federal authorities? I realize they have some responsibility in this. Will he discuss the possibility of subsidizing through Canada Post, something that is working very well out of Val-d'Or to bring some relief to people in northern Quebec and the high arctic?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I assure the honourable member that in the ministry's review of this there will be no reluctance to talk to the government of Canada or others who might have some involvement in a solution to this problem.

MENTAL HEALTH PATIENTS

Mr. Ruprecht: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Health. In view of the fact that the Ministry of Health's deinstitutionalization policy means that people are being pushed out of our mental health institutions without being ready for it, in view of the fact that these people are creating such havoc and such pain in many Metro communities to the point where the local people are so angry that they are building a casket for the minister and want to bury his policies and himself, in view of the fact that there is a recidivism rate of 60 per cent—meaning that 60 per cent of the people are leaving institutions and have to go back again, forcefully—and in view of the fact that I have a statement here from the deputy commissioner of building and inspections where he says, "From what I can find out, there is no adequate policy, either by the Queen Street Mental Health Centre or by the provincial health department, laying down guidelines on the discharge policies and control of these outpatients," my question is, what will he respond to this charge by the deputy commissioner of building and inspections?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, first of all let me say that the honourable member has not learned a thing over the last few years in all of the discussions he has taken part in with respect to mental health. I take it from everything he said previously that his policy with respect to mental health would be to throw the people in the institutions and throw away the keys, because that, in essence, is what he is proposing.

Mr. Smith: That is not the essence of it.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: That is the essence of what he is proposing.

Mr. Smith: That is not.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The member is quite mistaken when he says that people are being discharged before they are ready. In point of fact, in the mental health system, whether it is the provincial psychiatric hospitals or the psychiatric facilities that exist in 60 community hospitals around the province now, which have been developed over the last 15 years, it is strictly and simply a medical decision.

The honourable member, I suppose, would like to think he could devise a system that would guarantee absolutely that there would never be a mistake; either they would never admit somebody who should not be admitted or they should never discharge somebody who was not exactly ready. In fact, the whole system hinges on physician judgement.

Regarding the question of alternatives, we have in the last two years doubled our spending on community mental health programs, both for purposes of prevention as well as follow-up. We have also, as I mentioned earlier, expanded the network of community psychiatric facilities in community hospitals. They now total about 60.

I submit again, though, that the kinds of smart-aleck remarks made by the honourable member over the last few years in fact do nothing to expand the public's understanding of mental illness. They do nothing to deal with the very real problems that people more and more have to deal with in these times. If anything, they suggest a mental health system that would go back to a century ago when they were all called lunatic asylums.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Ruprecht: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: The minister should understand this that his remarks in this House in terms of being smart-alecky do nothing at all to solve the problem of his ministry in the communities affected and that these communities cry out for

a solution and not for any smart-alecky remarks.

My question to him was not a question of being smart-alecky or anything of this kind, and I am asking the minister to withdraw that statement he made. Simply because he is unable to come up with a solution that we feel is adequate does not put him in the position to call an honourable member of this House smart-alecky, and I would request he withdraw that statement.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, if at any point in the public career of the honourable gentleman opposite I had heard one constructive suggestion other than intimating that people should simply be locked away and left there, I would be glad to withdraw that, but I have never heard such suggestion.

Mr. Ruprecht: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. I have a letter here from the medical director at Queen Street. The medical director and the minister have been invited to come to a meeting that the city of Toronto will be holding in terms of discussing the problems that are associated with the discharge policy. In his reply, the medical director says, "To participate in the meeting is really not important."

I am asking whether the minister is prepared either to come himself or to send the medical director to a meeting that is being scheduled by the Metro social services committee on May 14. Will the minister be there himself to discuss these problems that Metropolitan Toronto thinks are important, or will he be sending Mr. Henry Durost, the medical director?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I have not been made aware of the meeting, and I will take that question under advisement. I suppose it depends to an extent on the purpose of the meeting.

I have met on several occasions with Metro Chairman Godfrey and representatives of the social services committee to discuss our mutual interests in doing something positive, unlike the member opposite, about the problems of mental illness, as a result of which, for instance, I agreed to fund through the Ministry of Health a proposal put forward by an organization known as Community Resource Consultants to better link the social service network with the discharge planners and the medical staff at the Queen Street Mental Health Centre.

I will take it under advisement and see what the purpose of the meeting is and whether it is appropriate that we be there.

Mr. Breaugh: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: I would like to ask the minister why it is, in all of this discharge planning and all of the wonderful consultation that he has, that after nine years he cannot find a proper placement for Henry Kowalski?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, the advice of the central Ontario advisory review board is that he is in the appropriate placement.

Mr. Di Santo: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Is the minister so heartless that he cannot understand the plight of the member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht), who promised during the campaign that if he did not solve the problem of the patients discharged he would resign in two years? Is the minister trying to force him to keep his promise?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding the attractiveness of that statement, I can assure the honourable member opposite, and indeed all members, that I will continue to do everything I can to improve services for the mentally ill and to improve on the network in this province. In fact, I would be so modest as to state that over the last four years we have made significant steps forward in improving the links in the system. So, notwithstanding that offer, which is terribly attractive, I will not yield to temptation but we will continue to do the best job we can in the ministry.

LAND USE IN NORTH

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Natural Resources. Does the minister agree with the statement by his predecessor that the people in northern Ontario, and in particular the people in northwestern Ontario, do not understand or care what the government does with the land and are not interested in participating in the decisions that the government makes with regard to land use in northern Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that those statements were made by the previous minister. I have checked the full content of his letters and various communications that he had on this subject with a number of different groups and bodies.

I am satisfied that the Ministry of Natural Resources, over the course of the rather lengthy period of time it has been involved in the preparation of strategic land-use plans in northwestern and northeastern Ontario, has made a great deal of effort in terms of communicating with the public and seeking their opinions, not

only on the background information papers which were first published, but also on the policy proposals.

I know for a fact that individual members of this assembly were involved in advisory committee hearings with respect to the procedures and the policies to be considered by the Ministry of Natural Resources. I know for a fact that we have extensive mailing lists of people with whom we were in communication.

I know for a fact that there were numerous newspaper articles and advertisements placed in newspapers throughout northern Ontario. I know that there was an emphasis on attempting to communicate with, for instance, municipal organizations, clubs and associated organizations to get across the background information and the proposed policies.

That does not mean to say there cannot be improvements in the public participation of the people of northern Ontario in this planning process. We will continue to look for ways to expand and improve that participation.

We think we are on the right course with the ministry initiating this kind of reaction. We are satisfied with the nature of the feedback and the commitment of the people of northern Ontario. They are letting us know their points of view with respect to both the process and the policies which we are hoping to adopt. We will continue to encourage the support and the suggestions of the people of northern Ontario as to what input they hope to have in this process and what policies they hope to see at the final stage.

There has been good work done by the staff throughout northern Ontario, for which they should be commended. We will continue to work as hard as we can to represent the interests of the people of northern Ontario.

Mr. Foulds: Will the minister then specifically repudiate the statement that Mr. Auld made in one of his letters, "It is our observation that the general public does not appear to be interested in, nor does it appear to be able to appreciate, the broad policy of land-use planning"?

Will the minister take into consideration that without any public hearings there were about 96 submissions to the Strategic Land-Use Plan: Northwestern Ontario—15 from environmentalists, 46 from individuals, 17 from government agencies, and 18 from industry? Does that not indicate an interest in land-use planning?

Will he not now make a commitment to have public hearings on the Strategic Land-Use Plan: Northwestern Ontario? What has he got against town hall type of meetings when there were 313 submissions to the Hartt commission, which certainly indicated an interest by the people of the north about how their land was used?

Hon. Mr. Pope: We have never denied that the people of northern Ontario and individuals in northern Ontario are interested in both the procedures and the substance of strategic land-use planning. Mr. Auld's comments were an expression of disappointment in the attendance at certain specific public meetings. We have always encouraged town hall type of meetings to have a discussion on strategic land-use plans for northern Ontario.

We do not believe that the kind of public hearings this member is suggesting we should have would benefit either the communication between the government and the people in the planning process or result in any resolution of difficulties.

3 p.m.

Mr. T.P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary on that question: Is the minister aware of an organization called Environment North, which called for public hearings and put on their own program because of the refusal of the Ministry of Natural Resources to hold what they considered to be adequate public hearings on the northwestern SLUP?

Is the minister also aware that, in those small communities which did hold such hearings, the district forester in most cases did not attend but, instead, they were very minor functionaries who could not answer any questions on the proposals put forward by the Ministry of Natural Resources?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to hear that the honourable member has recognized the participation of the employees of the Ministry of Natural Resources in these kinds of town hall discussions.

It is true that employees have tried to attend these meetings to try to gauge public reaction to the strategic land-use plans of the Ministry of Natural Resources. It is their duty to be there to listen to what the people have to say and to communicate it back to the ministry. That is a very important part of planning in this province and one we intend to continue.

Mr. Foulds: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Can the minister explain why the Ministry of Natural Resources officials in Thunder Bay specifically refused to attend and participate in the meeting referred to by the previous questioner for the reason that it was held during an

election period and government officials could not be seen to be siding with a political party, while other government civil servants were used by the Conservative government to bolster their position of public meetings during the provincial election campaign?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member knows that last statement is absolute nonsense. I am glad he has recognized the relationship between his party and some of these groups.

SKILLS TRAINING

Mr. Sweeney: I have a question to the Minister of Colleges and Universities, Mr. Speaker. Referring to one of the many promises during the recent provincial election that the government would be offering more, not fewer, opportunities to Ontario's young people to get skilled trades and technological training for our economic needs, can the minister indicate to us to what extent she is prepared to allow some of the community colleges in this province to reduce, not to expand or even to maintain, the programs they are offering?

The minister heard reference from the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye) about Algonquin College. In my riding, Conestoga College, for example, is having five programs reduced by the college itself, and the ministry's division of apprenticeship is pulling a program away. How far is the minister prepared to go?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, there is a deliberate policy this year to furnish additional funds to the colleges to provide for additional programs for training in high technology and in apprenticeship and skills training related activities.

The colleges in that area and throughout Ontario have been asked to look very carefully at programs that do not have high employment potential or do not seem to be meeting the employment training needs of the students, with a view to reducing those and replacing them with courses for which there is much greater employment potential. Many of the colleges are doing just that.

If there is an apprenticeship reduction at Conestoga, it must be related to the reduction in the time necessary to achieve apprenticeship, or it must be an apprenticeship that is no longer deemed to be necessary in that area by the professional advisory committee.

Mr. Sweeney: I would ask only that the minister have her own division check that, because the particular program in sheet metal is an employable trade; there are openings for people.

I have a supplementary question. Surely the minister is aware that the colleges are totally dependent upon funds from the government, from her ministry, to operate. They have no other source. At Conestoga, this coming September, they are going to have to freeze enrolment; they cannot take even one more student. Surely that is not the intent of the promise to provide more opportunities. There are going to be no new opportunities in our community. Could the minister check and tell us, if not today at some time in the near future, how many other community colleges across this province are facing the same kind of decimation, because that is what it is?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There is no decimation in the college system, absolutely none. There has been an increase in enrolment every single year, and there will continue to be an increase in enrolment this year, but this year we are hoping it will have an even greater relevance for employment opportunities, for training that is necessary within Ontario for all of those young people.

Mr. Riddell: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Will the minister see that the money that was returned by the government to the community colleges for training programs is allocated fairly so that the Conestoga College in Clinton will get its fair share?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I will have to take that as notice, Mr. Speaker, because I really do not understand the content of the question. Is it money returned by the college to the government, or by the government to the college?

The allocation is made to the college based upon its total enrolment, its full-time student activities, and that distribution is made by the administration on the advice of the board of directors of that college. Since there are a number of the honourable member's friends who are members of the board of governors of that college, I think perhaps he might speak to them.

Mr. Speaker: The time for oral questions has expired.

On a point of order, Mr. Mancini.

REDIRECTION OF QUESTIONS

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, you may recall on Thursday last I rose in my place and tried to direct a question to the Minister of Labour (Mr.

Elgie) which had originally been directed to the Premier (Mr. Davis). The Minister of Labour objected to my having redirected the question, saying that it was out of order to do so, whereupon the government House leader quickly arose and gave his opinion that it was out of order.

You promised, sir, to look into this matter, and you stated that you could not recall this practice having been done in this Legislature before. I would like to bring to your attention, after having done some research on this matter, that in Hansard dated April 20, 1979, this matter was brought to the attention of the former Speaker, the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), by the member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt), and the Speaker responded by saying, "It is up to the questioner to direct the question to the minister who the questioner thinks is appropriate."

The then Speaker further stated: "I see no reason why anybody shouldn't redirect the question, but it is not up to the chair to do it; it is up to the questioner."

Further, Mr. Speaker, we all recall on April 18, 1980, as recorded in Hansard, where the Premier objected to a similar procedure, stating, and I quote, "I don't care that much. . . . ," but that someone should look into it.

The Speaker replied on April 21, 1980, to the Premier, and I quote: "I would remind all members that we find in our research that, in 1980 alone, 17 questions have been redirected, one of which was redirected back to the original answerer, three of which were redirected by the minister and the rest of which were redirected by the questioner."

The then Speaker further stated: "It seems to me that people should be allowed to do anything to facilitate the business of the House as long as it is not in conflict with an order."

I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that redirecting a question is not in conflict with the standing orders, and I am sure will help facilitate the business of the House.

There was one other objection raised, I believe, by the government House leader when he stated that this is not common procedure in the mother Parliament at Westminster. I only bring to your attention, Mr. Speaker, that we do several things in our question period which are not done in the mother Parliament at Westminster. Surely the government House leader and all members are aware that in Westminster the questions have to be submitted in writing prior to the question period, and we discarded that procedure quite some time ago.

3:10 p.m.

But I do bring to your attention, Mr. Speaker, the procedure that has been used in our House of Commons in Ottawa, and I could quote many instances where questions have been redirected. I could make this information available to you. I do not want to take up the time of the House today, but I wish to have it placed on the record that this procedure is very commonly used in Ottawa. It is one we have used here over the past three years. It is a precedent that I believe has been well established and one that should not be lightly discarded.

Hon. Mr. Wells: On this point of order, Mr. Speaker: I do not dispute the fact that my friend can find precedents for it; that does not make the procedure necessarily correct. I would like to record that the members of the cabinet have always felt that the use of this redirecting procedure my friend is talking about has tended to take away from the regular operation of the question period between members. It is an abuse of the original practice. However, Mr. Speaker, I just want to reiterate that I did say—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Wells: We are not in any way trying to be arrogant on this. I think there are a number of things that should be looked at concerning the question period, and I think I made it very clear in some remarks I made in this House on Friday that all I was trying to do at the time when I made my interjection was to suggest that the procedural affairs committee should look at this and other practices under the standing order concerning the question period. That is all, and I think that should be done.

I certainly hope when the procedural affairs committee is constituted that, along with many things they look at, they will look at this particular practice and indeed the whole question period practice.

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, I would like to participate in discussing this point of order. I listened very carefully to the member for Essex South, and I believe he has touched upon a point that is important to members on all sides.

I believe the precedents, the standing orders and the practices of this House are clear; that is, that questions may be redirected on that side by ministers who feel that someone else in the cabinet may have a better answer or a more complete answer. On this side, we would certainly yield to that.

I also believe the practices, the rules and the precedents are equally clear that on this side of the House redirection may occur. That has been the practice in this House.

I will accept what the government House leader says, that there may be a number of things that the House in its review of standing orders or practices may wish to take into consideration. It is be my plea from this side, though, that if that is to occur, then it should occur in the manner in which we have established; that is, that these matters are referred to the procedural affairs committee. All members have an opportunity to present their point of view there, a recommendation comes back to this House and then the practice is changed.

I plead with the chair not to begin a process now whereby practices stop and then we review them. But if we are to change the way we carry on our question period here, I believe we have established in the previous five years a mechanism for changing those practices.

It is clear to me that the point raised by the member for Essex South is quite correct. If the government House leader or anyone else wishes to change that practice, the manner in which it should be changed is to send it off to procedural affairs, bring a recommendation back here and let the House vote on that. But until such time as that recommendation is adopted by the House, then I certainly feel that the practices which are clear, where there is precedent, where the standing orders allow them to happen, should remain and should be operative until such time as the House itself decides we ought to change the rules.

Mr. Speaker: As all members know, this point was raised earlier and I have it under consideration. I will answer to the House as quickly as possible.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

DOG LICENSING AND LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Henderson moved first reading of Bill 18, An Act to amend the Dog Licensing and Livestock and Poultry Protection Amendment Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to give farmers in northern Ontario the same opportunities as farmers in southern Ontario when they want to appeal an award under this act.

SHEEP AND WOOL MARKETING ACT

Hon. Mr. Henderson moved first reading of Bill 19, An Act respecting the Marketing of Sheep and Wool.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, the Ontario Sheep Association has at present the authority to collect licence fees under the Wool Marketing Act, 1974, from the sale of wool to fund the operation of the association. The purpose of this bill is to provide the association with additional authority to collect licence fees from the sale of sheep and lambs.

PERSONAL PROPERTY SECURITY AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Walker moved first reading of Bill 20, An Act to amend the Personal Property Security Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Walker: The purpose of this amendment is to dispel any confusion between the Corporation Securities Registration Act and the Personal Property Security Act by provided that a document will not be declared invalid simply because a registrant fails to register it under the proper act.

LIQUOR LICENCE AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Walker moved first reading of Bill 21, An Act to amend the Liquor Licence Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the amendment is to extend our present power to control liquor in provincial parks, the areas managed by the Niagara Parks Commission, the St. Lawrence Parks Commission and the St. Clair Parkway Commission and conservation authorities. It is our intention to impose short-term bans on liquor in these places, where necessary, to cut down on rowdyism and to encourage family camping.

3:20 p.m.

RACING COMMISSION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Walker moved first reading of Bill 22, An Act to amend the Racing Commission Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this amendment is to remove the present requirement that the chairman of the racing

commission be a civil servant. It is in line with government policy generally to limit agency appointments to threeyear terms, renewable once.

This amendment will also remove the present discretion to appoint other commission members as civil servants and will clarify the authority of the commission to employ clerks and judges to attend race meetings on behalf of the commission, the race meetings being racing commission meetings.

FAIR PRICING ACT

Mr. Swart moved first reading of Bill 23, An Act to provide for the Fair Pricing of Products and Services sold to Consumers in Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to require a fair price for every product and service sold to consumers in Ontario. Where a retailer seller charges an unfair price, the bill sets out procedures and remedies for ensuring compliance with the fair pricing requirement. The bill provides for an appeal of fair pricing orders to the Commercial Registration Appeal Tribunal.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE ACT

Mr. Swart moved first reading of Bill 24, An Act to provide for a Public Advocate in Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Swart: The purpose of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to provide for a public advocate in Ontario. The function of the public advocate is to represent the public interest in Ontario at rate hearings before tribunals and commissions.

The public advocate is also provided with the authority to intervene in hearings at which environmental matters are considered where, in the opinion of the public advocate, a broad general interest may be affected as a result of the hearing.

The bill also provides authority for the Lieutenant Governor in Council to fix a levy to be paid by corporations that make application for a rate increase for the purpose of paying the expenses incurred by the public advocate in carrying out his functions and duties.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE RATE CONTROL BOARD ACT

Mr. Swart moved first reading of Bill 25, An Act to establish the Automobile Insurance Rate Control Board.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, this bill establishes an automobile rate control board that would have the power to approve and fix rates and to conduct public hearings dealing with rate increases.

CONSUMER PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Swart moved first reading of Bill 26, An Act to amend the Consumer Protection Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to require that every product offered for sale bearing a product code must also be marked with its purchase price. The bill prohibits increases in the purchase price of a product above the price initially marked on it by the retailer. The bill also provides if the price marked on the product differs from the price associated with the product code, the purchase price of the product is the lower of the two prices.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE
(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, it is the custom in these responses to the speech from the throne to congratulate the Speaker and to wish him well, and I want to do so today. While I strongly objected to the manner in which the Premier (Mr. Davis) failed to consult with the opposition parties over your appointment, I want to assure you, Mr. Speaker, on a personal basis, that everyone in my party will do his or her best to preserve with you the independence and impartiality of the chair and to respect the high office of Speaker on behalf of this Legislature.

Because we believe the Speaker is the servant of the Legislature and not of any particular party, we will do our utmost to make sure your office is preserved that way. As I say, I feel sure we will have your co-operation in that task.

I want to say you may face a difficult time, Mr. Speaker, coming to this Legislature in your chair for the first time. I think the province faces a difficult time over the course of the next four years for a number of reasons. One of the reasons I want to state that—and this is a personal thing relating to this Legislature itself—is

that I regret very much the loss to this Legislature and the loss for a temporary period in public life in Ontario of my colleagues who were defeated in this election. I want to name them, in particular, Evelyn Gigantes from Carleton East, Bud Germa from Sudbury, Ed Ziemba from High Park-Swansea, Ted Bounsall from Windsor-Sandwich, Michael Davison from Hamilton Centre, Jan Dukszta from Parkdale, Colin Isaacs from Wentworth, Mac Makarchuk from Brantford, Dave Warner from Scarborough-Ellesmere and Monty Davidson from Cambridge.

I mention them all because these MPPs made a distinctive contribution to the life of this Legislature, to their party and to the province. If one thinks of such issues as energy conservation and the battle Evelyn Gigantes waged for a sensible use of nuclear power and alternatives to nuclear power; if one thinks of the battle that Colin Isaacs waged over the South Cayuga dump and the handling of liquid wastes; if one thinks of Michael Davison's fight over Re-Mor Investment Management Corporation; if one thinks of Magna Carta and beer in the ball park—oh, that David Warner were with us now for that one—if one thinks of the fight that Ted Bounsall and our caucus have fought for economic equality for women; if one thinks of the battle against Tory patronage which is going to go on but which Ed Ziemba fought against; if one thinks of the way Bud Germa was the authentic and real voice of working people, of miners, and how he used to confront the government; those men and that woman are going to be very much missed in this Legislature.

I look forward to the day when they or their successors come back to represent those ridings and when we have more New Democrats than we have ever had before in the Ontario Legislature. I will put those 10 against any 10 members of the Progressive Conservative cabinet. I want to say that they left to us a duty that I intend to fulfil and that my caucus intends to fulfil in fighting for the interests of the working people of the ordinary families of Ontario, the people whose interests I fear are going to be systematically overlooked as the government breaks promise after promise over the course of the next three or four years.

3:30 p.m.

An hon. member: They will get trampled on.

Mr. Cassidy: That is right. The Conservatives have their majority; the Conservatives have their mandate. But I want to say to you, Mr. Speaker, that I believe that minority government was good for this province. I believe the mandate the government has now received is going to be harmful to the vast bulk ofthe population of Ontario. The only people who are going to benefit are going to be the friends who helped to finance the Conservative Party campaign, the people on Bay Street, the people in the insurance industry, the people at Inco and the resource industries, all the other vested interests in the province that stood firmly with the Conservative Party on March 19 and are now expecting their rewards at the expense of the ordinary people of Ontario.

I say to the government that the Conservatives longed for the freedom of having a majority. The challenge is, now they have it, to see whether they know how to use it. I do not believe the Premier, his cabinet or his party know how to use a majority mandate. I think we already have evidence in the throne speech of the government's behaviour in its first month since the March 19 election.

Mr. Swart: Like the Minister of Community and Social Services yesterday.

Mr. Cassidy: Like that minister yesterday. It is like the new Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Walker) on the first day of the Legislature last Thursday, the attitude and behaviour of the government on the Re-Mor affair. It has already begun.

We had the evidence within a few days of the election when the former member for Cochrane North, Mr. Brunelle, who had been a member of the board that had adjudicated the $4.5-million grant to Spruce Falls Power and Paper Company Limited went off to take a job on the company's payroll as an external relations consultant. The Premier says he sees nothing wrong with that. The Premier does not understand that people in this province believe there should be a distance between government and the private sector. Most people, when they look at that arrangement, no matter how honourable a man Mr. Brunelle may happen to be, cannot help but suspect that kind of deal as a payoff, and they want that kind of behaviour stopped.

The Legislature had not even begun—we had not even had the speech from the throne—before we saw that the Premier, in his opinion, considered that your appointment, Mr. Speaker, was a partisan appointment rather than one to be made on a consultative basis.

My friends have mentioned that the blustering, raucous interjection of the new Minister of Community and Social Services showed from the very outset that, instead of being a minister

with compassion who will fight on behalf of the disadvantaged groups and individuals of Ontario, he is prepared to take those groups on on behalf of the vested interests of Ontario. I think it is despicable for the Minister of Community and Social Services to get up in this Legislature in his first act as minister and kick away at a group of French-speaking farmers who have a concern in the riding of Prescott-Russell.

Mr. Riddell: Absolutely. He called them a bunch of French farmers.

Mr. Cassidy: My heart went out to the new member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) on his first or second day in the Legislature to be treated to that kind of display from a minister who does not understand where compassion begins, who does not understand where sensitivity begins, who epitomizes the kind of arrogance I am afraid we are going to see all too often from this government now that the majority is back.

The Minister of Housing (Mr. Bennett) breaks a promise and sends out questionnaires to developers asking them to provide him with a rationale to get rid of rent review. The Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations provides all sorts of excuses why he thinks the promise of the Premier should be done away with when it comes to rent review.

Talking about promises to the Franco-Ontarians, we have a new cabinet which, for the first time in 20 years, does not have a single Franco-Ontarian to represent the 600,000 people of Franco-Ontarian origin in Ontario.

It disturbs me that all of this has taken place in such a short time. It disturbs me because the message is very clear. The United States has had Ronald Reagan and has had Reaganism. It has a government in power that is systematically abandoning all the commitments that country has made to people who are weak, powerless or disadvantaged.

The United Kingdom now has Margaret Thatcher as its prime minister. Under Mrs. Thatcher, the UK has systematically abandoned its commitment to people who are weak, powerless or disadvantaged because it is lining up with the powerful interests in that particular society. Now that we have a majority government, we have Reaganism, Thatcherism, Davisism. Call it what you will, Mr. Speaker, I want you to know that the right wing is triumphant in politics at this time and many people in this province are going to suffer as a consequence.

I remind the government of the words that the Premier gave to his caucus and his cabinet as this session was beginning. He said: "Remember to have a heart. We mustn't be too arrogant. Let's not get back into the way we were before 1975." The fact is that the Conservatives have learned nothing and forgotten nothing since that time.

The day after the election the word was going around among the circles of executive assistants and senior bureaucrats, and within the Conservative Party as well, that happy days are here again. I want to warn the government that its mandate was a mandate of only 25 per cent of the electorate of Ontario, that almost twice as many people who voted for the Conservatives opted not to go out this time. But they are sitting there watching and they are preparing to come out the next time.

I want to remind the government as well that, despite the fact that they have more seats than the two opposition parties combined, their mandate consists of 43 or 44 per cent of those people who happened to go out to vote on election day and no more. They have the seats with which they can command this place and wield their will for four years, but that is only a qualified mandate. If it is treated in any other way, the Conservative Party is going to pay the price in the election of 1985.

I think there is a challenge to the Premier, to the member for Carleton-Grenville (Mr. Sterling) and to all of the members of the governing party to show that this time with a majority it can rise above what it has achieved over the last few years. Can the Premier achieve the qualities of leadership and statesmanship which he failed to show over the last 11 years, or is he just going to spend the next four years breaking all of those promises that he made for March 19? Will he, in fact, disappear and leave his successor to break the promises so that it won't be Bill Davis but somebody else?

Hon. Mr. Walker: The member just can't accept the will of the electorate.

Mr. Cassidy: I have reservations. I have real disquiet over the way the Premier sits there and smiles benignly while he lets the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Havrot), the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea) or other members take on groups that are weak and powerless and say to them, "You don't belong in Tory Ontario." To the members of that government, Tory Ontario consists of just a few. Its raw, naked power is being misused already, and I fear that is going to continue to be for much too long.

The will of the electorate was to maintain rent

review, I say to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, whatever his prejudices may happen to be.

Hon. Mr. Walker: The Premier said it is being maintained.

Mr. Cassidy: I think the Premier should tell the minister to shut up. He should tell the minister it is time he stopped trying to undermine the rent review program, stopped talking about taking away rent review from those tenants who are forced to pay more than $400 a month and stopped trying to take rent review away from his constituents in the London area, as he has suggested already.

Hon. Mr. Walker: He is just ignoring the fact that it is going to stay.

The Deputy Speaker: I would like to call the minister to order, please.

Mr. Cassidy: A lot of the election we had on March 19 was fought on economic issues. One of the reasons for that was the work that we in the New Democratic Party had done in this Legislature over the last three or four years, because we recognized the need and pushed in order to get some action on economic issues from the government and from all parties in Ontario. We happened to write the agenda for this particular election campaign, even if the results were not entirely to our liking.

3:40 p.m.

We need now in 1981 to start to talk about the kind of society we are going to have in this province in the 1980s and into the 1990s. I am fearful about the way we are going to get that dialogue with the present government. There is a cutback mentality which will throttle innovation. Yet I doubt that it is going to even resolve the needs of our society. We need to have new directions in health care; we need to have new directions in social services; we need to have new directions in pensions and in meeting the needs of our aged. We will not achieve those without major innovations. Yet there is a government right now which is bent on stifling every important innovation in government policy that we have seen during the life of minority government.

Take the announcement we had yesterday about the doctors. Doctors will receive an average increase in their salary of about $12,000 per annum, bringing the average net income for the general practitioner to $68,000 and bringing the average specialist in the province to an income after expenses which will approach $100,000 in net pay per year. That is hard work, but it is still a pretty good reward and it is something that would be pretty nice by most peoples' standards.

Despite a pay award which the Weiler report said will be worth $220 million, the government never lifted its voice to even suggest to the doctors that they consider doing away with the extra billing which is now undermining our medicare system in the province. Despite a pay award which was the biggest in the history of medicare, the government failed to even try to get the doctors to stop extra billing. That is why we have cases like that which was raised by my colleague from Sudbury East in the Legislature today. Mr. Lewis Welch from Sudbury with an income of $422 a month, a pensioner, is now facing $725 worth of bills in addition to OHIP. What is the government going to do? The Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell) gets up in his place and says, "We can resolve most of these questions if you fight hard enough." That is not good enough.

There was a case in Downsview of a woman, also on a small income, who had a $750 bill for surgery. Her surgeon told her that she needed to have more surgery, but then added that he, the surgeon, was not prepared to go forward until this woman of little means had paid the first bill.

We are back to the days of charity medicine. We are back to the days of the kind of medicine that existed in the United Kingdom before the National Health Service, or the kind of medicine that still exists in too many parts of the United States of America. We are back to the situation that prevailed before medicare came into our province and to our country. We New Democrats say that that is not good enough. All of us in this Legislature have an obligation to stand up on behalf of the ordinary people of this province who fought for medicare, who want medicare, who want the security of knowing that never again will their health have to depend on whether or not they have enough dollars in their bank balance to afford to go to the hospital or to afford to pay the doctor. That is the kind of medicare we want to see back in Ontario.

This may not even be a matter of principle. What it may be is simply that this government lacks the guts to take on the doctors because the doctors, all 12,000 of them, are a powerful element in our society and a powerful element influencing the Conservative Party. I want to say it is about time we had a government with guts and with leadership and it is about time this government, using its mandate or using its majority, showed some guts and showed some leadership to get us back to universal medicare.

When the interns went on strike, did we get lectures from ministers of the crown at that time? No, we did not. We got negotiations and, finally, we got a settlement, regardless of the fact that the strike may or may not have been legal. But when the hospital workers went on strike because they had no other recourse, that was another story.

We have doctors getting 14.75 per cent, but for the hospital workers, as far as the government was concerned, that 11 per cent offer from the hospitals was just fine. We have doctors receiving an increase in salary of $12,000 or more, which means that some doctors are going to get as much in a year as an increase as hospital workers earn in a year, taking all of their income into account. Not only that, but what do the hospital workers get? They get work loads increasing; they get tension; they get pressure; they get hospitals undercut by the cutbacks; they get fewer beds; and they get patients who are distraught.

They get situations like the Ottawa Civic Hospital in my riding which is now facing a $1-million deficit. They get situations like the Royal Ottawa Hospital in my riding where the emergency ward director is threatening to shut down the emergency wards because there are no beds to which to take patients who are pyschiatrically ill and need that care if they come in late at night. That is the situation we face in Ottawa Centre and it is duplicated all across the province.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. We will say a great deal about the cutbacks in hospitals and about the erosion of health care, but to start with it is time to ensure that the hospital workers are dealt with generously and not stingily. It is time to restore the morale of the workers in our hospital system who are so vital to making the health care system work. If this province can afford $220 million in order to put the doctors in clover, then surely we can afford some money in order to deal justly and fairly with the hospital workers.

I say to the government, stop the reprisals that are going on at the hands of the hospital association right now. Rehire the laid-off workers, who in many cases provide leadership for those workers, and ensure that the work places work effectively. Get the morale back in the hospitals. Do away with all of the layoffs and suspensions that have taken place. Let us give the hospital workers the same rights as every other worker in Ontario.

Our province needs leadership and innovation and not a rerun of the battles of the past. That is why I was upset by the comments from the member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Drea) in this Legislature yesterday. As I read about what is happening with Bobby Sands and read about the tragedy in Northern Ireland a few miles away from Donegal where my ancestors came from, where Catholics and Protestants continue to be pitted against each other fighting the battles of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries right on into the 21st century, I ask myself: "Is it not possible in this province to get away from those kinds of latent, underlying factors in the politics of Ontario?"

Mr. Speaker, you know that there still are elements of religion in the politics of our province—WASPs voting Conservative and Catholics voting Liberal or NDP. It has gone on for far too long. The very least we can ask is that it is not exploited by the governing party. That is why I was so bitterly disappointed with the deal that the Premier struck with the Prime Minister of Canada, which leaves Franco-Ontarians out in the cold when it comes to the changes in the constitution now taking place in Canada.

I plead with the Premier, if he is listening to me or if he reads this speech, to listen to the words of the Prime Minister of Canada, to listen to the words of almost every member of the federal Parliament, to listen to what we have been saying in this party consistently over the course of the last several years, to listen to what Progressive Conservative members of the Senate are urging, to listen to what David Crombie has been urging and to listen even, if he would, to what Joe Clark has been urging, and for Ontario to join in with New Brunswick, Manitoba and Quebec, for Ontario to recognize in perpetuity the rights of our Franco-Ontarians by having this province accept section 133 of the British North America Act.

That is something we could do of our own initiative and should do. It is something we could and should do as a means of beginning to exert once again the leadership this province traditionally had in Canada which we have lost so badly over the time that Mr. Davis has been the Premier.

This weekend I talked with a friend out in Vancouver over the phone. He said, "Your Premier is as inconsequential and irrelevant out here as Bill Bennett probably seems to you down in Ontario." That is not the way it used to be. When the constitutional debate is for all practical purposes over, as it is right now, barring some surprises from the Supreme Court

of Canada, it is time to start to heal the wounds. It is time to start to chart the path for our country for the next two decades. I had no sense of that at all in the throne speech that was delivered in this House.

3:50 p.m.

Let me start with our neighbours to the east. I say to the government the results of the Quebec election were decisive, particularly because they showed the Parti Quebecois is here to stay as a major force in Quebec politics. It will be here for the indefinite future.

If our two provinces do not have common interests, then no provinces have. Together we have industries threatened by imports and by the tariff cuts now agreed to at the international level. We have industrial capacity which can and should be used for the development of all of our country, including the big megaprojects in the energy field in western Canada, if we can persuade western Canada to put its orders here, rather than shipping them out to other parts of the world.

We have innumerable interests in common and, traditionally, Ontario and Quebec have worked together, but not for the past five years. The reason we have not in the past five years is partly the responsibility of Quebec, but in large measure it is because of the wall, the blue-tasselled, ribboned wall that was put up on the Quebec border by the Progressive Conservative government of this province.

Three years ago I led a delegation of members of the NDP caucus to Quebec City to establish a dialogue which continues to this day. It is not as intense as I would like, but we took that measure because we thought it was important that this Legislature should communicate with our colleagues in Quebec City. We knew then that was not taking place between the cabinet of the government of Ontario and the cabinet of Quebec or between the people in large measure of this province and the people of Quebec. Nothing has changed and nothing has improved in the intervening period.

Je dirais que nous en Ontario avons un intérêt dans le maintien d'un pays. Maintenir un pays cela veut dire assurer que les Québecois veulent rester au Canada. Je me souviens de la résolution que nous avons adoptée à l'unanimité dans le débat sur la constitution ici une année. Et dans cette résolution nous avons indiqué clairement aux Québecois que nous dans toutes les parties de l'Ontario étions prêts à faire des changements majeurs pour assurer que les Québecois voudraient rester dans notre pays.

Malheureusement, rien ne s'est passé de cette détermination depuis la résolution. On peut même penser que le gouvernement avait oublié entièrement la déclaration qui a eté faite à l'unanimité par cette chambre ici une année. Dans la période des dix dernières années, la séparation entre notre province et la province du Québec est devenue de plus en plus grande et les contacts au niveau des cabinets entre l'Ontario et le Québec devient de moins en moins intense.

Alors c'est le temps de faire un nouveau commencement. C'est le temps pour l'Ontario de déterminer, de déclarer, de démontrer que nous sommes préparés à recommencer le dialogue avec nos amis, nos frères et nos soeurs de la belle province du Québec et c'est le temps pour l'Ontario de démontrer sa détermination en résolvant nos problèmes ici avec les Franco-ontariens de la province de l'Ontario.

Rien ne pourrait symboliser plus clairement notre détermination de commencer avec un nouveau chapitre, nos relations avec le reste du pays, avec la province du Québec, que si nous acceptions nos obligations envers les Franco-ontariens et si nous prenions l'initiative pour l'acceptation à la section 133 où on appuie tous les droits des Franco-ontariens pour avoir leur propre langage garanti dans les corps, garanti de nos status, et garanti ici dans la salle législative de la province.

It is time as well for a new beginning in our relations with other provinces. We need a fresh initiative from Ontario with western Canada, an initiative that will look to our mutual advantages because Ontario and the west have clear and common advantages to gain by working together, but we are not doing it right now.

My colleague the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) keeps reminding me his riding is almost part of western Canada and feels very much with western Canada, but the fact that Ontario has interests in conjunction with western Canada is simply forgotten here at Queen's Park in this province.

The west would like to expand its manufacturing and we have the technology to help it do it. The west does not have the manufacturing base to meet its needs for heavy industrial development in the energy field. We have the capacity that we can put at their service but we need some quid pro quo. Where was the Premier when Allan Blakeney was offering that kind of joint action five years ago? It was an offer that was ignored, I believe, at the expense and to the cost of all of us in this province.

Ontario can make real contributions in terms

of our industries, in terms of our technologies, in terms of our universities and in terms of our work force to the development of this country, but that fresh start and those initiatives were simply not mentioned at all. And there is no sign that the government is prepared to do that, if one judges by the throne speech we had a week ago.

That throne speech, I regret to say to the member for Brock (Mr. Welch) was old, it was borrowed and overwhelmingly it was blue. It gave no indication that the Davis government intends to attack the serious economic and social problems that are faced by the working people of Ontario. Instead of providing tough new initiatives to meet the housing crisis, to meet the rental crisis, to deal with the decline of the automobile industry, to deal with problems related to plant shutdowns and layoffs or to set in motion a thorough rethinking of social policies, we get a recycling of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program, a series of broken promises, and nothing more.

In our party we had great difficulty believing the Premier in the election campaign when he made his pledge to maintain rent controls as long as he is Premier. It has quickly become clear that a promise is not a promise any more if the government gets its majority back, because otherwise the Premier would have firmly squashed the member for London South (Mr. Walker) who started to speculate about ways to weaken and undermine rent review.

If the government selectively eliminates rent review in London, Ottawa and Windsor, that is not keeping the promise. It is not keeping the promise to take it away from apartments that rent for more than $400 a month. It is not keeping the promise to raise the rent ceilings from six per cent to some much higher figure.

I want you to know, Mr. Speaker, that in London today 34 per cent of three-bedroom apartments that are needed by families rent for more than the $400-figure mentioned by the member, the minister who is responsible for rent review. In Ottawa 48 per cent of the apartments rent for more than that figure and in Windsor 60 per cent of the apartments. That is the protection that the member responsible for rent review wants to take away, despite whatever promises were made by the Premier when he was hustling for votes back in February and did not know whether his government would get its majority mandate or not.

The Deputy Speaker: I trust the minister is listening.

Mr. Martel: That would be something new for him.

Mr. Cassidy: It seems that Thatcherism has spread across the Atlantic.

A year ago with a minority government we had a government prepared to make promises with respect to the advancement of women. Then they voted against the New Democratic Party's bill for economic equality for women, and now with respect to women there is not word of promises in the throne speech. The government does not give a damn about half of the population of Ontario. It is time we achieved economic equality for the women in this province. We can and should achieve that economic equality now.

Last year the throne speech at least was prepared to acknowledge that Ontario had a watching brief over the pricing of basic commodities like food. Last year, because of minority government, the government accepted some obligation to protect families and small businesses that were affected by rising interest rates. This year we have a majority government and, lo and behold, interest rates have become a federal problem, and this government is not prepared to do anything to protect the people affected by the sudden escalation once again of interest rates. This year prices are purely a federal problem and this government is not prepared to even monitor what is going on and ensure that the consumers of this province have someone on their side who will fight for their interests when supermarkets, stores, retailers and other big interests start to push prices up.

We have a government that was not prepared to even mention unemployment in the throne speech. There were 300,000 reasons for mentioning unemployment in the throne speech because there are 300,000 people who are unemployed in the province right now. That is too many. Too many of those are young men and women who do not have jobs and do not know where their careers are going to lead because of a lack of opportunities. Because of the failure of economic stewardship under this government there are 300,000 people unemployed and not a single job target in the growth program and not a single job target in the throne speech last week.

4 p.m.

The government did not come up with any targets, any programs, or any ideas when it comes to ensuring the basic right of individuals to have a house of their own. Now, to add insult

to injury, there are rumours that when the budget comes down on May 19, two months after the election, OHIP premiums, which have been held since 1978 at the same level, will once again be increased to a level that is even higher than today, and they are already at the highest level of any province of Canada.

I hope the minister will take this message back to the Premier. We will use the rules of this House, we will use every means available to an opposition party to stop the government from trying to raise OHIP premiums the way they are trying to do with their trial balloons right now, because that is an unjust tax. I want an assurance from the government in the throne debate that never again will they try to load that kind of tax increase on to the ordinary citizens of Ontario.

Mr. T. P. Reid: That sounds good now, but it sounded pretty weak before the last election when the NDP leader voted seven times with the government.

Mr. Cassidy: The member for Rainy River voted 10 times with the government. I would point out as well that the northern representation of the Liberal Party has been cut by half. That is how they have been serving the north. The member for Rainy River is very lucky to be back here intact.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Not as long as the NDP leader keeps running the type of candidate he ran.

The Deputy Speaker: Would the Liberal-Labour member for Rainy River please come to order.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I want to talk for a while about what needs to be done for the province, not just in terms of criticizing the government, but also in terms of the kind of priorities we New Democrats want seen to by this Legislature, not just for the coming two months or the coming year, but over the life of the next four years that we, like it or not, are likely to be around before the next election campaign.

We differ fundamentally both from the Conservative government in terms of what we see as being needed for Ontario and also from those imitation Tories who sit to my right in the official opposition. Their only distinction from the government is they wish they were in power rather than being perpetually in opposition.

Ms. Copps: We will be taking the NDP place.

Mr. Cassidy: That is right. The Liberals will be taking our place because that party is never going to form a government in Ontario.

Ms. Copps: All the places.

Mr. Martel: Is that from a one-tripper?

Mr. Cassidy: That is right.

If the Liberal Party had a single new idea we would have heard about it during the election campaign, but not one idea came from them. And over the next four years, I suspect it is going to be the same. All they do is look at the polls and hope that somehow Pierre Trudeau's poor popularity is going to waft them into office. I want them to know it is not going to happen. It did not happen last year or the year before and it is not going to happen in future.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Ottawa Centre is being awfully provocative.

Mr. Cassidy: Let me start by talking about jobs, Mr. Speaker. Through the campaign the Conservatives kept pushing the BILD program as their response to Ontario's economic needs. With one stroke, with $150 million of provincial funding per year, BILD would make Ontario a world leader in microelectronics. It would electrify municipal transit systems; it would rebuild the food processing sector; it would allow Ontario to explore and develop new mines; it would establish a mining machinery industry; it would revitalize ship-building; it would promote tourism; it would regenerate our forests. I have forgotten what else is on the list. It was a very long one.

Mr. Martel: For $150 million.

Mr. Cassidy: For $150 million.

Mr. Martel: Like the Bramalea charter.

Mr. Cassidy: That is right. Unlike the Bramalea charter, it did not even have a goal or a target when it came to putting down jobs. The fact is that the NDP's initiatives on economic strategy struck some response from the government, but what they came up with was a pale-blue imitation and nothing more; a pale-blue imitation which would not and could not do the job because you cannot do the job with only one per cent of the provincial budget. If you could turn Ontario's economy around by spending one per cent of the provincial budget, then the challenge to the Conservatives is to explain why it is that they did not do that job beginning in 1943 or beginning in 1977, at the time of the last provincial election.

My colleagues are going to talk to the other issues about jobs, but I want to talk about one issue in particular, because of the concern we have about working people and our particular concern at the cavalier way that both the BILD

program and the throne speech have dealt with the problems of our number one manufacturing industry in this province, the automobile industry.

Windsor alone has lost 7,000 jobs in this industry in the last five years. If you go to Chatham, if you go to St. Catharines, if you go to Kitchener, if you go to St. Thomas or London, you will find thousands upon thousands of auto workers are forced to go west to find work. Whether put on layoff for months at a time, or laid off permanently, there is a total right now of something more than 20,000 of them out of work. Twenty plants were closed down in Ontario's auto parts sector last year. Last year, our deficit in the auto trade, with the rest of the world, was once again just under $3 billion. And I do not need to tell you, Mr. Speaker, coming as you do from the Oshawa area, what that translates to in terms of lost jobs, not only in Durham East but in every other part of the province.

We are running $2.5 billion short in terms of a fair share of the investment that the parts industry would need if Canada is to keep its place in North American industry. Our share of auto parts imports into the United States has fallen from 80 per cent a few years ago to near 50 per cent now. It is still falling as US manufacturers adjust to a new world climate, move to a world car, and put Canada's concerns on the back burner in their corporate strategy. And that is the nub of it.

The US companies that dominate our industry have put our concerns and our legitimate desires, our legitimate needs on the back burner because the US government and their own profit sheets are more important to them than what is happening to the industry here in Canada.

Yesterday, in this Legislature, the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Grossman) dismissed our concerns once again with a Pollyanna approach, which we simply cannot afford any more. The minister dismissed the Ontario Treasury report on the auto industry by calling it a "worst-case" scenario. But it is that kind of misguided optimism which has hurt us so often in the past. As that report indicates, unless this government and the government of Canada act, we could lose permanently a third of the work force in the automobile industry in Ontario by 1985—and that industry is the most important manufacturing industry in this province.

If that occurs, we will largely have ourselves to blame, for the state of Canada's auto industry today depends in large measure on the action and the inaction of this government and of the Liberal government in Ottawa. Why do we have no research and development in the industry to speak of? Where have the Liberals been for 30 years? Where have the provincial Conservatives been for 30 years? Why are the automobile companies still not accountable 16 years after the auto pact? The Liberals in Ottawa and the Conservatives at Queen's Park are accountable for that.

Why have we left the parts industry as an orphan, and why are we now paying the price? Liberals in Ottawa and Conservatives at Queen's Park have been responsible for ignoring the industry in the hope that somehow the private sector would pull through. Why is 90 per cent of the production of our parts industry dedicated to medium-sized cars and large cars that will no longer be built in five years' time? That is an achievement of Conservative economic planning in Ontario.

The new Ford Escort and Mercury Lynx, and the sports models that are being constructed at St. Thomas, here in Ontario, are world cars which the Ford Motor Company has put up as a challenge to the Japanese imports. Only four per cent of the value added of those new cars, the technology of the future, is represented by parts which are made here in Canada, mainly here in Ontario. If we have only four per cent of the cars which are being built, being built in St. Thomas, it is clear that there is no way we can achieve a fair share of jobs, a fair share of production, a fair share of employment, a fair share of research and development and innovation in the automobile industry.

4:10 p.m.

If I can be more specific in order to show just how far the problems have come: Forty per cent of the parts production in our automobile industry in Ontario is in the area of engines. We make V-8 engines, we used to make straight six engines down in Windsor and we now have V-6 production in the Ford plant which opened a few weeks ago. But there was no production of diesel engines and no four-cylinder engine production for cars in Ontario.

General Motors anticipates that five years from today something like 80 per cent of the engines used in the motor cars it manufactures in North America will be diesel or four-cylinder engines. If we have not got the productive capacity then we will be shut out of that production completely.

The Treasury report indicated very clearly that by 1985 or beyond, the GM plant in St.

Catharines will be the only engine plant operating in this province and that we may have no engine production at all. The challenge to the government, if it is really intent on running the economy rather than leaving it to private corporations, is to move in now and to make sure that we start the kind of production which will ensure that we are not left without jobs in this important sector of the automobile industry four or five years down the line.

The government response has been pitiful. There is not a single mention of the automobile industry in the throne speech. The auto parts technology centre which is promised in the BILD program is going to be located not on the basis of the needs of the industry but on the basis of political public opinion polls, where the government thinks the most votes are. To all Conservative members here, particularly the new ones, who have a touching faith that somehow the Conservatives can do the job, I say if the Progressive Conservative Party of William Davis cannot deal with the automobile industry, how can anybody expect the other economic and employment problems of our province to be dealt with by our government? This failure in the auto industry makes the whole BILD program nothing short of a joke.

I suggest there are answers. There is a program we could put into place right now, but the NDP is the only party which is prepared even to advocate the program let alone put it into action. We have a market for cars in this country which is worth $10 billion a year. Our market is in the same league as that of Great Britain, Italy and France. We are in the big league, and we should behave as though we were.

What we need and cannot get from Liberals or Conservatives is the determination to intervene to ensure that the automobile industry is an instrument of growth, and to put it into balance in terms of our international trade by acting tough, the way the other countries which have a successful automobile industry have already done. It is time to ensure we get a breathing space by seeking and getting temporary controls to restrict imports of cars and parts while we start to turn the industry around. Nothing short of that is going to do the job.

We should be demanding that auto companies adhere to domestic content rules which will stipulate that if they want to sell their cars in Canada, wherever built, they will have to buy in Canada as well. For every Datsun sold here, let Nissan buy $3,000 worth of parts made by Canadian automobile workers and let them start to assemble their cars in Canada, because nothing less will guarantee that we get a fair share of research, of jobs, and a fair share of trade. That should be our ideal and our target.

It has worked in Mexico and in Brazil. It has worked in countries which were prepared to say: "You do not go any further. Our workers should get jobs in line with what we buy in terms of cars in this country." But it is not enough just to make agreements with the auto companies. We have to be prepared to take a hand in the industry the same way that governments have done in almost every major auto-producing country in the world.

I think of Italy, France, West Germany, Japan. The specific area where we need to take action is in the automobile parts industry. I want to make the suggestion I made during the election campaign, because it is time we had government involvement directly in that industry rather than standing aside while tens of thousands of jobs go down the drain.

In the early 1970s, Canada set up Petro-Canada to help us deal with our energy problems. It was the New Democrats who forced that idea on the minority federal government and it is an idea that is proven, it is an idea that is accepted, it is an idea that works.

Petro-Canada has given us a way to deal with the multinationals and it has overwhelming support by the people of Canada. We need a Petro-Canada in the auto industry. We need a crown corporation we in the NDP would call Auto-Canada. We believe Auto-Canada should be created now as a means of giving this province and this country the clout in the auto industry we have never had before.

Auto-Canada should set out to monitor the parts purchases of the auto companies and should help the government negotiate content rules. It should ensure the in-house production of the Big Three does not continue to be biased against Canada. It should help Canadian parts producers research new technology and develop new products. An auto technology centre on its own is not going to do that job. Auto-Canada should be prepared to enter into ventures with existing suppliers and with the major auto companies to invest in parts production here in Ontario.

I suggested in the election campaign the first joint venture Auto-Canada embark on should be located in Windsor, where we need the jobs, and should be devoted to the small diesel-engine car production which North America will need

so much of in the 1980s. I ask myself, how is it General Motors, Ford and Chrysler are planning to buy engines in Mexico, Brazil, Tokyo in Japan, Western Europe? Their diesels will come from everywhere except Canada, despite the fact we have a market for more than a million cars a year.

Chrysler has the production space down at Windsor. Massey-Ferguson has the diesel engine technology. If we marry that with Auto-Canada we can get the jobs going in Windsor and make sure that those parts, those engines are made here by Canadian workers rather than being imported from abroad.

I do not want to be a prophet of doom, but unless this proposal is taken up the grim prophecies of the Treasury report will come true and we will find there is little or no production of engines left in Ontario by the time of the next election.

That is the auto industry. That is just one industry, and I will not talk about them all, but it illustrates the weakness of this government, because if the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development had begun a decade ago we might be better prepared for the economic crisis of the 1980s.

Now it has begun with a casual and half-hearted approach to economic planning, which is what the Conservatives are offering this Legislature and this province right now. It is too little, too late and is not acceptable. We do not have the time to wait for the results of BILD by 1985 to prove that this, like the Brampton charter, is another Conservative failure.

We need evidence now that, with this majority, the Conservatives are prepared to turn over a fresh leaf, to quite frankly admit mistakes of the past and to come to grips with the economic problems of our industry in a way that will put this province back on its feet.

I happen to have a great deal of faith in Ontario. I think we have the technology and the young men and women who can do the job in terms of working in our industry. We have proved again and again that we can develop products, can sell them around the world and can sell them to ourselves as well, but we are held back right now because of multinational corporations which dominate our manufacturing industry.

We are held back because of irresponsible decisions made in foreign boardrooms. Decisions should be made here in Canada. We are held back because of a government in this province which believes the rights of those foreign corporations should come ahead of the needs of the people of Ontario.

What we need is a government dedicated to ensuring we pay our way, as we can in this province with full employment, that we pay our way in this province, as we can by replacing imports and that we pay our way in this province, as we can by using the resources of the province as an economic base on which to base our industrial strategy for the 1980s and on into the 1990s.

4:20 p.m.

In the past four years, we have seen the government hand out $120 million in giveaways to the pulp and paper companies. These were straight giveaways with no conditions, no terms, no guarantees of jobs. That's the way they have dealt with industry.

We have seen the same government ignore the fact that if you don't preserve the trees, the mills can't go around. The fact is that those mills will be re-equipped to do a job that Ontario will not be able to do if the government doesn't come to grips with the fact that we are no longer regenerating the forests that Ontario needs in order to keep jobs in the forest sector in northern Ontario into the next decade and beyond.

Mr. Martel: Oh for two trees for one!

Mr. Cassidy: By now we need about five trees for one to make up for the forests that have been raped by the Conservatives and by their friends in the pulp and paper industry over the course of the last—

Hon. Mr. Sterling: We are doing it at Edwardsburgh.

Mr. Martel: They wouldn't even vote for the amendment. The Premier promised two trees for one and those birds voted against it.

Mr. Cassidy: He breaks the promises. He is going to break the promise this time as well.

I happen to believe that economic planning and government leadership can lead to a stable economic future for northern Ontario. The giveaways with taxpayers' money to private corporations have got to be replaced and the NDP has put forward a northern development strategy which would do just that, which would diversify the northern economy, would stabilize economic growth and would eliminate social and economic disparities between northern Ontario and southern Ontario.

It is no accident that there are so many forthright spokespeople for northern Ontario sitting on the front benches of the NDP, because

the north has been disadvantaged. The northerners have fought back by electing colleagues like Elie Martel, like Jim Foulds, like Floyd Laughren, like Bud Wildman and like Jack Stokes, men who know the problems of northern Ontario and men who will fight, with my colleagues on the NDP caucus, until we achieve equality for northern Ontario. The way we are going to do it is by building on the resources in northern Ontario.

My colleagues are going to speak to some of those issues, but for now I want to say that the time is long past due when we should have a heritage fund in Ontario and we have the means in our mineral industry here in the province.

Let me give some figures to the Minister without Portfolio, who appears to be the sole remaining member of the cabinet in the House right now. I congratulate him on his elevation. I warn him about those hungry eyes in the back row that are concentrated on him right now, because they all want his job.

In 1979, the people of Saskatchewan received $157 million in revenue from mineral production, excluding oil and gas. The mineral production of that province was worth $847 million. In that same year, in this province we had $43 million worth of mining royalties on $2,224,000,000 worth of production. We had 2.5 times the mineral production in this province that they had in Saskatchewan, excluding their oil and gas, and we got a quarter of the revenues because this government is in bed with the mining companies rather than defending the interests of the people of Ontario.

Let me put it another way. In 1979, we got two cents for every dollar of production of our nonrenewable mineral resources in this province and in Saskatchewan, under an NDP government, they got 18 cents on the dollar, a rate of return nine times as great.

Mr. Swart: How do they explain that?

Mr. Cassidy: They can't explain that. It is a sheer, unadulterated giveaway by a government that puts the interests of corporations ahead of the interests of the people of northern Ontario. This government is no more ready to take on the mining corporations than it is ready to take on the automobile manufacturers, or to take on the doctors or any other powerful interest group in our society.

Crown corporations should be established in the resource sector in order to stimulate development and stabilize local economies. If we created the northern Ontario tomorrow fund that we have called for for so many years, the heritage fund the New Democrats have called for for so many years, it would be a means of ensuring that northern development was in the hands of the people of this province rather than leaving northern development in the hands of multinational resource companies that do not give a damn about the future of this province.

There is another aspect to the costs of the economic policy of this government. In this year's election campaign, the government sought votes on the slogan of "Help Keep the Promise." But when it came to the throne speech, it had already forgotten the promise that was made in such unequivocal terms this December by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Elgie). That promise was to bring in severance pay legislation at the earliest possible time in the next session of the Legislature. That is a promise that we will hold the government to, because the evidence of the shutdowns last year and the evidence we had before the select committee on plant shutdowns is clear and unequivocal. Workers must not be left on their own when they are faced with irresponsible corporations, often multinationals, that are determined to shut down, whatever the human costs.

I read through some of the testimony at the select committee this week. It drove home to me just what workers are up against and just how difficult the problems are for some of them. What would you do, Mr. Speaker, in the case of Celia Riches who lives a few miles from Dunnville, who worked for 19 years at the Essex International plant there before it shut down? Her husband is on disability pension and, before she was laid off, her take-home pay was $135 a week.

How about Mrs. McMichael who had been at the Essex International plant for 16 years? When she came before the committee, she said, "After unemployment insurance, it's going to be hard."

How about Gary Weston, who was a machinist with papers, who thought he would get a job easily? About six months after the shutdown occurred, there he was with a mortgage to pay, a baby to support, a wife who was unemployed, no severance pay, no pension benefits. He did not even get a thank-you from the company.

When we went to the company and said, "Why won't you set up a manpower adjustment committee?" They said, "We are sorry, but we are too busy in the United States to come up to Canada to look after the needs of those particular workers."

The pay in this plant was $4.09 an hour. How

generous the multinationals are to people here! Yet it was one of the most highly productive in the Essex International chain in all of North America.

The government says, "Why didn't they go on strike for severance pay?" They had to go on strike to get an increase in the wage offers that were running about 20 cents to 30 cents an hour per annum if they had not gone on strike.

The company cut the work force from more than 1,000 to 300 prior to the shutdown. The company had milked the Canadian subsidiary to the tune of a dividend of $15 million that was taken back to the United States in 1978. But they did not have two nickels to rub together to help those workers who were misled about the shutdown and then put out on the street with no guarantee that anything would happen for their future.

The stories were the same with the Bendix plant in Windsor, Armstrong Carpet in Lindsay and the other companies that were called before that particular committee.

The only bottom line for those corporations is profit. The social costs and the human costs of shutdowns are not considered at all. The employees are kept in the dark about what is happening. Even when there is a pension, it is like the $60 a week that many of the people at the Steep Rock Mine in Atikokan got. In return for a lifetime of devoting themselves to that particular company, they are put on the scrap heap with enough money for a couple to buy a decent meal at a posh restaurant frequented by the Conservatives in the vicinity of Queen's Park.

What is occurring in this province is that capital has been given unilateral power to respond to its stockholders and to no other responsibilities, and that is tolerated by this government from the Premier to the Minister of Labour, to every minister in the cabinet. I challenge any one of those new members who are sitting in the back row to say whether they are prepared to vote against the government when the government fails to come up with the one week for every year of service in severance pay, which was the unanimous recommendation of all of the members of the select committee on plant shutdowns when we had minority government before March 19; now we will have to see.

4:30 p.m.

The message of that committee, which even the Conservative members agreed to, was that management has a responsibility to the communities and to the workers from whom they have made their profits. Surely that principle can be respected. If it is going to be respected, then why does the government try to weasel out by taking severance pay out of the throne speech, by leaving the Minister of Labour high and dry, by putting him in a position where he may have no choice but to submit his resignation because his promise will not be honoured when we get to it in the next few weeks?

The omission of severance pay from the throne speech was very disturbing. It shows me that the government is going to do its best to try to evade the promises of the Minister of Labour if it possibly can. If the promise is not evaded, then it is going to be like rent control: you water it down, you put it off, you tear it apart, you do everything possible to make sure that nobody at all will really benefit in the end.

What about the other principles we fought for as well? Severance pay was not the only one; in many respects it was the least of what we were fighting for. Surely it is time that Canada and Ontario adopted the principle, which is now widespread in western Europe, that if a corporation intends to shut down, that corporation should be forced to justify the shutdown and to justify it publicly rather than being allowed to pack its tents and move away.

Surely workers who are affected by the shutdowns should get at least six months' advance notice so that they can plan their lives the same way that the corporation plans its affairs when it plans six months or one year ahead to carry out a shutdown.

Surely it is not an intolerable interference when management has the right, right now, to pull away as it did in the case of Outboard Marine. Management should not have the right to interfere with the livelihood of individuals without advance notice, without justification and without protecting pensions.

We are going to fight for those principles. We think workers have the right to severance pay, to have their jobs justified before they are taken away, and communities have that right as well, and to adequate advance notice.

If they will not agree to that, then what the members of the government are saying is that this is a province where only capital counts and where workers do not count for anything. That is not my Ontario. That is not the Ontario New Democrats stand for. We stand with the rights of the working people in the province. If the government wants just to fight for capital, so be it. We will take them on at the hustings in another four years' time.

In the first three months of this year, the Ministry of Labour says, there were 23 closures in Ontario, with 5,443 workers laid off. That is almost the same rate as last year. Those workers deserve a guarantee that their jobs will be protected by this government, that their employers will be forced to justify shutdowns and that they do have the right to severance pay. It is the least we should give to people who in many cases have devoted 20 years of their lives to one particular employer before a shutdown takes place.

The question of severance pay and shutdowns is only part of the kind of approaches we need to be thinking about when it comes to the future of this province. The challenge for the 1980s now is not just to run our economy. The challenge is to integrate social policy and economic policy as well. That is why we need a tomorrow fund for northern Ontario, together with a development plan for the social as well as the economic development of northern Ontario.

It is absolutely essential to start moving forward, and there is one particular area where I am afraid the government is giving a clear indication that it is prepared to live with the past rather than moving forward, and that is in the area of pensions. That is going to be a major issue. The government foresaw that when it appointed the Royal Commission on the Status of Pensions in Ontario. Unfortunately, we have had the most retrograde report that could have been imagined, a report that says quite clearly that only the private sector is capable of meeting the needs.

The private sector has been a dismal failure when it comes to pensions. It has failed to deal with coverage, because half of the workers of this province are not covered by an employer pension plan. It has failed to deal with portability. Portability does not exist for most employees in the province. It has failed to deal with vesting. Vesting is so distant for most people that they may never get it, with current work standards and work practices, and it means that many pensioners who move from job to job will end up with no pension at all at the age of 65.

The private sector has totally failed to deal with the question of indexation to preserve the purchasing power of private pensions. The private sector has failed to deal with the problems that women have because they have been systematically discriminated against by the government in the course of the private pension system.

I was appalled at the choice of timing by the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) who took the opening day of this Legislature to fling down the gauntlet and say that, despite the failures of the private pension system, that was the only way to go. The Treasurer was saying clearly that the government has already anticipated the report of the select committee on pensions that this Legislature is to set up and I regret that, because it is a fundamentally reactionary attitude.

I think that to dismiss an expanded Canada pension plan means that we tell most people across the province that in their lifetime they are not going to have the right to a decent pension. We are telling them as well that this government, this province will not use pension funds as a means of administering an economic development plan that will create jobs for the people of Ontario.

The Treasurer seems to view trustee pension funds as a pool of capital that should be available only for the private sector. He should reply in the throne speech debate as to why that capital should not be available for the public sector. We have used it in the past to develop schools, universities, hospitals and educational institutions. We can also use that pool of public capital, if we maintain it, to develop jobs in the public sector. But I am afraid the Treasurer does not see it that way.

The Treasurer seems to view pensions as something over which workers or their representatives should have no control. We reject that view absolutely and entirely.

I am concerned that Ontario may now use its veto over the Canada pension plan to prevent improvements being made to the CPP, not just for people in this province, but also for people everywhere across the country. I want to suggest, even before the select committee is set up, that there are certain changes we can and should make right now to show that this province is prepared to stand up for the rights of ordinary people who have been short-changed by the pension schemes of this province for too long.

We need vesting after five years and we could have that now, in this session of the Legislature, if the government were committed to protecting people and not insurance companies.

The Deputy Speaker: Mr. Cassidy, I am sorry, but while there is a hesitation, may I say I enjoyed your comments on the auto industry very much. I am sure I am out of order, but I might also comment that I am very pleased to see the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Smith) in

attendance. I am sure our one sole cabinet minister, the Minister without Portfolio, will take your comments back to the government.

Mr. Cassidy: I hope he will. Thank you for pointing out, Mr. Speaker, that the government is so concerned that in its new arrogance it is only the Minister without Portfolio who is ever told to stay in the House, and the ministers with cabinet responsibility are going to be absent for the next four years. I suspect that is the case.

Mr. McClellan: They will be absent after the next election.

Mr. Cassidy: That is right. The member for Carleton-Grenville (Mr. Sterling) should tell his colleagues that if they want to do something for pensions, they should bring in vesting after five years. He should tell his colleagues that if they want to do something for pensions, they should activate the central pension agency, for which legislation exists. It needs a stroke of the pen, a regulation to be passed and portability through the central pension agency could be a reality for workers in this province today, without waiting for action on the select committee on pensions.

It is about time we had a guarantee for all pension credits so the workers would not be put in the situation of the workers of the Prestolite plant and other places where pension liabilities are being left unfunded. Those steps should be taken before the select committee meets, but I am afraid this government will put the interests of private insurers far ahead of the interests of the ordinary working people of this province whose only concern is that when they retire they have a decent income, protected against inflation and able to be carried from job to job, and that they be able to look after their own needs without having to depend on relatives or on the government.

In social policy it is more than pensions that are at stake, because it is about time that this Legislature began to give very serious consideration as well to the need for a major and fundamental reform of our social security system.

In a few months, we are going to have the Weiler report on workers' compensation but, if that report leads to legislative tinkering, it is not going to resolve the basic and underlying problems which exist and those problems go far beyond the workmen's compensation system alone. Those problems can only be addressed by moving towards a universal and comprehensive sickness and accident insurance program that will provide compensation for both people who earn and people who do not earn, that will provide compensation irrespective of fault and that will provide compensation irrespective of where the injury or the illness is contracted.

4:40 p.m.

The situation in this province right now is that if a worker goes to work, punches a time clock and a minute later slips on a banana peel and is crippled for life, he will be compensated by the WCB. If that worker is turning the corner to come into the plant to punch the time clock and the same circumstances prevail, he slips on a banana peel and is crippled for life, he will not get a nickel's worth of compensation. That is the law in Ontario right now, and a law that can be that unfair is an unjust law.

My colleagues and I intend to lay out before this Legislature ways in which we in Ontario can move step by step towards a systematic implementation of universal social insurance that will protect people in disability, people in illness and people in adversity in the same way we believe that every worker, every person in the province should be entitled to a decent income at the time they come to retirement.

Surely workers and their families should not be penalized when injuries or illnesses occur. Surely society must begin to accept responsibility for the welfare of people who, because of injury or illness, are not able to sustain themselves. Surely this form of compensation is a basic right that is not a form of social assistance but is an insurance against physical incapacity. Surely the present system of workers' compensation is totally inadequate when it is viewed in this light, and so also is our system of family benefits.

We look to a system that would provide compensation on a universal basis to injured persons both for permanent physical disability and for loss of income with a regular cost-of-living adjustment. We look for a system where financing by the whole community from a levy on employers, on drivers and on general revenues replaces the selective taxation that takes place right now. We look for compensation to be paid to people who are incapacitated by illness. We look for the Workmen's Compensation Act to be repealed and private insurers to be excluded from the field of accident and sickness coverage except where they are providing supplementary coverage.

We look for action to prevent accidents by promoting safer worker environments. We look for a requirement that employers provide adequate employment opportunities for those disa-

bled workers, and that means quotas to make sure that workers can get those jobs.

We look for an emphasis on rehabilitation such as this province has never seen before. It is not good enough to have one hospital in Downsview providing rehabilitation on a hit-and-miss basis. It is not good enough to have workers forced to come down by train from Sudbury, to be separated for weeks or months at a time from their families, to get some form of half-baked rehabilitation when we could be carrying that out in the communities where people work. It is not good enough to say to a worker, "If your arm moves a little bit, then you are capable of working at 10 or 20 per cent of your former capacity."

It is time that rehabilitation was given as much importance as compensation in terms of disability pensions, because a just compensation system must provide for the prevention of accidents, for the maintenance of income and for rehabilitation, and our compensation scheme right now fails on all three counts.

We have a society whose nature is changing. It is time to reform our economy to put it on the track of full employment, because that is the best form of social security for most people. It is time to ensure that economic development is used as a means to pay for needed social programs. It is time as well to use our wealth to protect our citizens in old age with a pension system, and in adversity with a social insurance system.

I am disturbed at the indications from people like the member for London South (Mr. Walker) that far from moving in that direction, far from moving to an integration of our economic system and our social security system, which is what New Democrats believe can be achieved in the 1980s and in the 1990s, the government will march resolutely away from that particular direction.

I read the other day a phrase now being used in Washington where Mr. Reagan and his assistants and associates are talking about providing assistance only to those who are "truly needy." It appears defence corporations are among the truly needy, because defence contracts are going up in the United States. It appears many companies will be in the ranks of the truly needy because of the increased tax incentives they are going to get but, when it comes to ordinary people who need housing, who need food stamps in the United States, who need assistance with the cost of living, who become disabled, those people are not going to qualify.

That kind of thinking colours this government as well. This government has moved to the right. It has moved to a situation where it says, "Let those who are weak take the hindmost, because this government is going to line up with its friends and with no one else."

[Translation from Italian].

Mr. Speaker, let us take a look at the prices of homes. On the one hand, Conservatives tell us the family should be the nucleus of this province and on the other hand they offer no assistance plan for families at a disadvantage because of the lack of homes and their prices.

In may parts of this province, owning a home has become a luxury rather than a right. This situation is especially tragic within our ethnic groups, which in many cases have to work at minimum pay and where both parents have to work for the upkeep of their families. In many cases they barely survive.

It is time the government intervened rather than advise families to find homes elsewhere. We must act in a concrete way. If the government really cares for our families, let it show it in a concrete way, not in words, which cost nothing.

[End of translation].

This throne speech had brave words about the importance of the family in our society, but those words are empty words when it comes to the matter of housing. Today, the average home in Metro can be afforded only by a family with an income of $44,000 a year. We had the spectacle of the Minister of Housing (Mr. Bennett) in this Legislature on Thursday saying the price of housing is "not beyond the middle-income earner's opportunity of purchasing." The fact is that, at the average industrial worker's wage of $17,000 a year in Metropolitan Toronto, there is not a single housing unit for a family that could be afforded by a worker at the average industrial wage.

We are demanding a speculation tax as part of a policy to ensure affordable housing. We are going to come back to that again and again because, unless this government is prepared to take immediate action to curb speculation, we are not going to do anything about keeping housing within reach of the ordinary families of Ontario.

Those speculators are using housing for profit and nothing else. The members in the back row may have heard from some of their colleagues who are on the outside. Maybe they are doing it themselves right now. One looks at the Globe

and Mail in the morning, one picks up the phone and says: "Joe, I want the house that is on page 37 of the want ads, the one that is third down from the top at $109,000. That is in a good district and it is going to go up. And buy me three condominiums as well."

There was a report in the paper the other day about a Vancouver housing consultant, Richard Ingram, who was buying hundreds of housing units in this province sight unseen as speculative investments on behalf of clients in western Canada. Nu West Development of Calgary is doing the same thing, buying up town houses because it thinks they are going to appreciate in value over the course of the coming months.

Those speculators are investing their money in housing for a very short period. They do not intend to live in the homes. They resell the homes at higher prices, and Ontario families cannot afford this kind of speculative profit which contributes absolutely nothing in terms of shelter to the future of Ontario.

We have west coast money coming into this province. We have foreign money from Hong Kong, West Germany and Europe coming into this province. We have people who were lining up overnight to get an 800- or 900-square-foot bungalow for $59,800 in Mississauga in which one can barely fit a small family. A starter home starts at $60,000 in Metropolitan Toronto these days.

One gets developers telling the purchasers that, if they do not buy now, the price is going to go up by $20,000 between now and the fall. That kind of speculation should not and must not be allowed. But the government does not give a damn when it comes to choosing between its friends in the development industry and the rights of ordinary families who want to be able to get a house of their own at a price they can afford.

4:50 p.m.

We have a minister who believes that the right of investors takes precedence over the rights of Ontario workers to housing. I suggest that we leave the member for Ottawa South (Mr. Bennett) to invest in housing himself. There is no reason he should be in the cabinet of Ontario, because he cannot do the job. His responsibility is to provide housing for the people of the province, not profits for the developers.

The numbers game and the blustering of the Minister of Housing will not change the fact that half the families in Metropolitan Toronto could not afford to buy more than 80 per cent of the houses sold in March 1981. Only 18 per cent of homes sold in March 1981 were sold for less than $50,000. That is the price an average family income of $27,000 can afford.

The minister says those people should avoid downtown areas and look for housing in Scarborough, for example. But if the minister had gone shopping in Scarborough two weeks ago, he would have found that of the units listed, only 109, or 12 per cent, were listed at $50,000 or less.

We know there are no easy solutions for housing. We want some long-term solutions, such as rent review and the construction of co-operative and nonprofit housing. But the government must begin by curbing the speculative spiralling in the price of housing. Nothing else is going to protect those families who, week after week, see a house moving farther out of their reach.

We can end speculation in the housing market. We proved that back in 1974, when the land speculation tax came in. We will have some specific proposals, but if the government has not got a better idea, I suggest that it dust off the Land Speculation Tax Act, 1974—not because it gained a lot of revenue for the people of this province, but because it was a clear warning to speculators that we do not want them in Ontario. They can take their hot dollars and go to some other part of the world. We want housing for people and not for profits in Ontario.

There is a clear pattern in terms of the way the government has already begun to govern with its majority right now. We have a government that is prepared to provide $12,000 a year for doctors, but only peanuts for hospital workers, against whom it proceeds in the courts because they went on strike.

The government looks for a way out of its promises to tenants so that it can reward developers. It is prepared to move heaven and earth to put speculative profits in the hands of land owners and developers at the expense of people who want a home of their own. We have a government that leaves control of our most important manufacturing industry in the hands of multinational automobile companies, even though thousands of jobs are threatened or already lost in that industry. It is prepared to hand out millions of dollars in grants and tax concessions to northern resource companies who perpetuate the underdevelopment of northern Ontario, and puts the interest of insurance companies ahead of the needs of ordinary Ontarians who want decent pensions.

The NDP believes that these priorities are fundamentally wrong, and we intend to combat

the government at every opportunity. We had an election on March 19. The results, as my friend from Cochrane North (Mr. Piche) is aware, were not exactly what New Democrats had hoped for in terms of the seats that we expected to win. But I want the member and all his colleagues to know that the New Democratic Party has been in this province for 20 years. Our predecessors, the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, came into this Legislature in the 1930s.

We are here to stay. I am here to stay as the leader until February and as the member for Ottawa Centre beyond that. We intend to keep the promises that we made in the election campaign, and we will do everything possible to stop the Conservatives government from breaking the promises it made in the course of the election campaign leading up to March 19.

We disagree fundamentally with the Conservatives and, starting now, we are going to set out what this province needs in jobs and economic strategy; in housing for people at prices people can afford; in rights for women and economic equality for women, a battle we fought singlehandedly in the last Parliament; in rights for farmers, because the farmers now recognize that the NDP policy is the best policy for the farmers of Ontario; in a fair tax system; in resource development; in protecting laid-off workers, in providing for universal health care, the kind of health care people voted for when they voted for OHIP and universal medicare in Ontario; and in pensions and in social services.

There is a job to be done in Ontario. I have outlined my fears in terms of what the government intends to do. We are going to fight the government and its intentions at every opportunity. I want to make explicit our concerns.

Mr. Cassidy moved that the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech from the Throne be amended by adding thereto the following:

And this House condemns the government: For its failure to introduce a housing and land speculation tax and introduce other measures to curb the speculative profiteering and inflow of speculative funds from outside of Ontario which makes it impossible for average Ontario families to own a home of their own;

For its failure to provide universal access to health care and its absolute refusal to prohibit extra billing by doctors above the OHIP rate;

For its failure to extend rent review to tenants in buildings built since 1975 and its obvious efforts to weaken or eliminate rent review protection for tenants;

For its failure to exercise its stewardship over the natural resources of Ontario through a policy of public ownership and development of our resources which would finance a northern Ontario tomorrow fund and ensure the maximum return to the people of Ontario;

For its failure to provide for a meaningful reform of the pension system that will put needs of Ontario citizens ahead of the profits of the insurance industry;

For its failure to undertake a comprehensive reform of social security and of workmen's compensation in Ontario that will provide rehabilitation and income protection for every citizen;

"And for all these reasons this House has no confidence in the government."

5 p.m.

Mr. Brandt: It is both a privilege and a pleasure, Mr. Speaker, for me to rise and address this House for the first time. As one of the first members of the government party to reply to the speech from the throne, I am humbled by this awesome responsibility and yet I welcome the opportunity to speak today on the question of Canadian crude oil supply in the petrochemical industry. This crucially important area is all the more important for me as the new member for the riding of Sarnia which, as you know, Mr. Speaker, is the hub of the petrochemical industry in Canada.

Before I commence my remarks on this subject, however, I want to extend my congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, on your appointment. I wish you well in your new position, and I know I am reflecting the views of my colleagues on both sides of the House when I say I am confident you will fulfil this responsibility with dignity and a sense of fairness.

I also want to take this occasion to offer my good wishes to the former Speaker, the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), who carried out his responsibilities and his duties in his time as Speaker with impartiality and skill. I know his contribution was greatly appreciated by those on both sides of this chamber.

Sarnia is my home, and I have been proud to serve the citizens of this medium-sized Ontario city as mayor for the past six years and, before that, as an alderman for four years. Now it gives me even greater satisfaction to be able to represent the people of Sarnia in the Ontario Legislature. I look forward eagerly to carrying out my duties in this new role in the years ahead.

As I said, Sarnia is the hub of the Canadian

petrochemical industry and as such it is an extremely important industrial centre for Ontario. But Sarnia is more than a city of large and important industries. It is the birthplace of many prominent Canadians, not the least of whom is Ontario's former Lieutenant Governor, Pauline McGibbon.

When I was listening to the Honourable John Black Aird delivering the throne speech in this chamber a week ago I was reminded of his predecessor, who discharged that same duty so ably and so well during her six-year tenure as the Queen's representative in this province. Pauline McGibbon is a remarkable woman, and her exemplary contribution as Ontario's Lieutenant Governor between the years 1974 and 1980 was just one more admirable achievement in a long and dedicated life of service to her community and to her province. Sarnia is proud to be able to claim Pauline McGibbon as a native daughter, and the people of Sarnia will continue to follow her activities and her achievements now and in the future with the same interest and sense of pride as they have shown in the past.

Mr. J. Reed: It is the best thing to come from the Conservative Party in years.

Mr. Brandt: I am here now, sir. It is possible that some people in this chamber have never been to Sarnia. Being located at the southwesterly tip of our province, members may not have had occasion to pay us a visit unless they happened to be making a trip across the border to the United States. Unlike the residents of Windsor, a little to the south, we do not enjoy the benefit of through traffic en route to Detroit and back.

Another deterrent to travelling to this far corner of southwestern Ontario has been access. While members in Metro and environs have been used to moving quickly in the Metro and Golden Horseshoe areas by way of Highways 401, 400 and the Queen Elizabeth Way, we in Sarnia have been accessible only by secondary highways and byways until relatively recently. This is why the completion of Highway 402 is so important and so vital to the people and to the industries and the future industrial growth of the city of Sarnia and to Lambton county. This four-lane freeway with full control access will connect Highway 401 south of London to Sarnia and provide a link with the American interstate highway system as well.

Work on completing this major connection has been in progress for some years now, and I have been advised by the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) that the highway will be completed by the fall of 1982. This firm commitment from the minister with respect to a specific completion date will be good news for the constituents of my riding who are eagerly awaiting word on the finalization of this particular project.

Mr. Foulds: Does the member have that in writing?

Mr. Brandt: Yes, it is in writing. The member for Port Arthur will be pleased to hear that and we will invite you there for the opening and the ribbon-cutting.

I would like to turn now to the main subject of my address today, Canadian crude oil supply in the petrochemical industry. One of the main concerns and one of the principal concerns facing Canada and Ontario at this time in their history is the question of our national energy policy and our future, and the resolution of that particular problem between the federal government and the provincial government of Alberta.

While the national debate in recent months has been concentrated almost exclusively on the constitution, the energy question remains a priority item on the national agenda even if it has not yet received the same degree of discussion, action or publicity of late. The energy question is very much a part of the current constitutional debate. Control of natural resources will be an integral part of any new Canadian constitution, and just how this issue will be resolved will have far-reaching repercusssions on Canada's future energy and economic security.

Canada's need for crude oil and the supply of that oil is undoubtedly our country's primary energy concern at this time. Right now, at this moment, we are importing 420,000 barrels of crude oil a day at world prices. This represents about 20 per cent of our total crude oil needs in Canada. Twenty per cent may not seem like very much, but when projections indicating our need for imported crude oil some 10 years or so down the road are examined it is a totally different situation.

According to those projections, by the year 1990 the percentage of oil that we will have to import to meet our needs will be more than double present levels. In other words, imports will account for close to 50 per cent of our total supply. Now, this is not news. We have been aware of these disconcerning facts for some time, and it is to the credit of the Davis government, if I may say so, that Ontario has taken steps to reduce this province's depen-

dence on foreign oil from politically unstable regions.

Some 18 months or so ago, our Ministry of Energy formulated a policy setting out the means by which Ontario could attain energy security in the 1980s. That plan challenged Canada to a national goal of crude oil self-sufficiency by 1990. Taking the lead, Ontario also set its own targets in the area of energy conservation and oil substitution.

To refresh your memory, it is our goal to supply more than 37 per cent of our own primary energy needs from Ontario-based sources by 1995. If we achieve this target, it would mean a reduction in Ontario's demand for crude oil by some 23 million barrels. In tangible terms, 23 million barrels is the equivalent to that required annually to heat more than one million homes.

While these goals, on both a national and provincial level, are admirable in theory, the reality of our national energy situation is such that there seems to be little likelihood of their being attained given the current political climate. There is no doubt that Canada's energy future could be secure. There is no doubt that rather than facing uncertainty, we could be moving ahead to meet the challenges inherent in Canada's energy developments with confidence and with enthusiasm.

Unfortunately, I must say to members of this House that is not the case. Many of the provisions of the federal government's national energy program, combined with the inability of Ottawa and the oil-producing provinces to reach agreement on critical energy issues, have not only significantly slowed industrial activity, but they also threaten the very existence of some of the major projects on which Canada must depend to achieve its national goal of energy self-sufficiency.

Indeed, few aspects of the oil and gas industry are not adversely affected by the national energy program. The reduced incentive to maintain production from existing wells could lead to a faster than predicted decline in the production from these sources. Plans for slowing the decline in production for mature fields by enhanced recovery technology have had to be postponed because, frankly, they are no longer economically feasible and, again because of reduced incentives, exploration for new conventional oil in western Canada is expected to decrease appreciably.

In addition, the government of Alberta has announced that it will not grant final approval to new oil sands plants, which are vital to energy self-sufficiency for Canada, until it reaches a comprehensive agreement with Ottawa.

The fact of the matter is this: The reduction in oil demand that can be expected to result from conservation and fuel substitution programs, such as those that are now in place in Ontario as well as those soon to be implemented, would be overshadowed by a far more dramatic decline in domestic production if the present federal policies prevail.

5:10 p.m.

The good work we in Ontario do in this decade to reduce our dependence on crude oil could well be negated if domestic supplies are allowed to decrease because of federal policies. Under the circumstances, it is no wonder an increasingly frustrated oil industry is saying that, far from achieving self-sufficiency by 1990, Canada could find itself relying more heavily on oil imports than ever before.

Instead of importing 20 per cent of our crude, as we are today, by 1990 we could well be importing some 50 per cent of our total supply if, and this is probably the most frightening aspect of the whole discussion, oil is available to be purchased from any sources at that particular time.

This daunting prospect and its effect on the Canadian economy would be little short of tragic. Apart from the obvious perils to our national security by such a mounting dependence on imported energy supplies, Canada would have turned its back on an immense and unique opportunity for wealth and job creation.

Also, when Canada buys oil in the world market that could be produced here at home, it increases demand for foreign oil, and this works to keep world prices higher than they might ordinarily be. There is no need to describe the hardship this creates, not only for Canada but also for those poorer nations which, unlike ourselves, have no domestic oil production.

Until now I have spoken generally of the damaging effect the current oil negotiation impasse and national energy program will have on the economy of Canada as a whole. Let me, if I can, spend a few minutes talking specifically about Sarnia and the negative impact being experienced in my city right now.

Currently, Sarnia has some $1.5 billion worth of new energy and petrochemical projects on the drawing boards or in the implementation stages. One firm, Petrosar, as an example, has projects with a dollar value of $500 million in the works at the moment, while Suncor has $200 million in new ventures waiting to go ahead.

These projects are directly related to energy-saving initiatives whereby crude oil is upgraded to a little higher production quality, resulting in less residual or lower value product.

A great many thousands of barrels of crude oil, estimated to be in the range of 30,000 to 40,000 barrels of crude oil per day, will be saved as a direct result of this substantial capital investment.

The energy sector is one of the major means Canada has at its disposal for building a stronger national economy throughout the 1980s. An aggressive program of energy development would not just benefit the energy producing provinces such as Alberta and the oil industry but, as well, there would be positive spinoff benefits to other provinces and to many sectors of our industrial economy.

The positive impact for Ontario alone would be substantial if the federal energy negotiations could be resolved satisfactorily. If the megaprojects in the west which have been delayed by the government of Premier Lougheed of Alberta were given the green light, many billions of dollars in new industrial sales would result, with Ontario being one of the major beneficiaries.

For example, Ontario's steel industry would benefit significantly from new pipeline construction. Shipbuilding, engineering, machinery and plant construction are just some of the other industries that would gain from a far-sighted national energy program. Such a program could result in as much as $200 million being spent in this decade on oil and gas development across Canada.

While Ontario has been at the forefront in the fight against allowing the price of Canadian crude oil to reach world levels, it is inevitable that some domestic oil price increases will have to take place. A differential, however, must continue to be maintained to the advantage of our domestic industries in Canada so that Canadian industries can compete effectively in the world market.

The argument that Canadian oil prices should be kept artificially low to reduce the impact on Canadian consumers and industries is difficult to defend in view of the fact we are already paying world prices for approximately 20 per cent of the oil we now import. Unless domestic producers are given the incentive to develop our resources, we will be forced to pay a higher and higher world price for increasing amounts of OPEC oil, while much of our domestic supply lies untapped and undeveloped in the ground.

Given a choice, I believe the people of Ontario and the people of Canada would prefer to spend their hard-earned tax dollars on a Canadian product developed in this country to helping make the OPEC cartel even wealthier than it happens to be at present.

As Ontario is primarily a consumer of oil, it cannot participate directly in the current discussions between Ottawa and the producing provinces. Nevertheless, it is my belief that Ontario has a pivotal role to play in helping to free the present negotiation impasse. Our province's traditional role as the honest broker could be used to good effect in bringing the intransigent parties to a successful resolution of the problem which has dragged on for an unconscionably long time, in my view.

The Prime Minister has already accepted our Premier's invitation to hold a first ministers' conference on inflation in the near future. Since the price of oil is one of the most pervasive inflationary forces facing us today, this meeting could provide a forum for a responsible debate on energy between Ottawa and all of the provinces.

The tenor of my comments to this point has been somewhat cautionary but, given my constituency, Mr. Speaker, I am sure you can appreciate my perspective and understand the specific nature of my concerns. Living as I do in the heart of Canada's petrochemical industry, it is impossible to downplay the importance of the energy issue. This is not to say, however, that I lack confidence in the economy of Ontario or the economy of Sarnia.

The speech from the throne indicated clearly the great potential for future growth which exists in this province and which can be more fully realized through our economic development strategy under the BILD program. The shift to high-technology development is a decision that I applaud. Without it and advanced research and development, the oil industry certainly could not survive, let alone prosper.

Other sectors of our economy are in the same situation. Our increasingly competitive world demands that we follow the lead of other highly industrialized nations such as Japan, which are depending more and more on advanced technology to operate an economically efficient and productive state. The magnitude of the projects on the drawing boards in Sarnia, about which I spoke earlier, is a very clear indication that our economy is potentially strong and, once the energy question is resolved, we can start to develop some of these projects very quickly.

Sarnia has had a successful past, and our future prospects are bright as well. We are the centre of Canada's petrochemical industry, and we do not intend to relinquish that position. Since Alberta has the crude oil and we in Sarnia are geographically located at the other end of the pipeline, it is not surprising that Alberta's Premier Lougheed would like to develop the petrochemical industry in his province.

But we in Sarnia have a number of advantages that are most important. First, there are a number of very large and powerful industries in place in Sarnia now, and they are committed to that particular region of our province. The second major advantage is geographic location. We happen to be within 500 miles of half of the population of the United States and Canada. Many of the plants that depend on Sarnia as a supply source are located within that 500-mile circle, far removed from the province of Alberta.

Under the circumstances, we are in a very advantageous position to attract reasonable amounts of future growth and development that can come into either of the two provinces with respect to the petrochemical industries.

Future growth in Sarnia will come from the chemical side of our industry rather than the petroleum side. This is because in Ontario at the moment we have more than adequate refinery capacity and existing refineries are not operating at maximum levels. It is most improbable, therefore, that future growth in our area will come from new or expanded refineries.

The rather limited prospect of future growth in the petroleum business, however, should be offset by an optimistic forecast of things to come in chemicals, rubber, fertilizer and related products—the very products that are now produced in my community.

5:20 p.m.

Let me take a few moments to point out the tremendous number of diverse products that are made in Sarnia using crude oil as a building block and its impact on the balance of the Ontario economy.

Just for example, 100 gallons of crude oil could be made into 46 white shirts, 13 garbage cans, 46 sweaters, 365 items of ladies' lingerie—

Mr. Nixon: What?

Mr. Brandt: Ladies lingerie; 365 items. Can you imagine that?

Mr. Nixon: Well, that is a pretty broad category.

Mr. Brandt: To continue: Two tires, eight tire tubes and 23 pounds of filler, while at the same time producing enough gas to last the average household 30 full days.

Mr. Speaker, if you were to substitute for the 13 garbage cans, you could produce, as an example, 1,155 feet of home water pipe or 8,800 square feet of film sheets. If the market happened to be slow in ladies' lingerie, you could instead produce 910 pounds of nylon pantyhose, or nine 16-inch television cabinets.

By the time the chemical industry and other downstream fabricators have finished with their work, crude oil valued at $29 would be worth $26,000 in finished product form.

Mr. Nixon: That is pantyhose.

Mr. Brandt: Among other things. Let me know your size and I will see if I can get it for you wholesale.

Mr. Foulds: Actually, your numbers would diminish considerably if you use his size or that of the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Piche).

Mr. Brandt: Do you want a pair as well?

The plastics industry is almost entirely dependent on petrochemicals and, from these chemicals, about half of the fibres used, from carpets to coats, are produced. Eighty per cent of our rubber, Aspirin tablets and detergents, half of the world's fertilizer—with the exception of some that comes from another direction in this House—all come from base products that are produced in Sarnia.

Perhaps the most aggressive changes of all will occur in the auto industry with the conversion to smaller and lighter cars to reduce fuel consumption. Both plastic and rubber substitutes are being used far more extensively than ever before. With increased world demand for this very wide range of products, the chemical industry looks strong for the future, which has to be good news for Sarnia and, by extension, good news for Ontario as well.

Before concluding my remarks, I want to leave the energy area and talk about the relationship between the Ontario government and our province's municipalities. As a municipal representative for 10 years, I have been a long-time observer of the relations between the two levels of government. I have also been an active participant in the process, and I want to share a few thoughts with you, if I may.

It has been my experience that the Ontario government has been and continues to be the more responsible and the more responsive of the two senior levels of government. A perfect

example of the province's constructive and helpful attitude is to be found in its excellent and well-used downtown revitalization program.

Sarnia, I am pleased to say, was the first community in Ontario to take advantage of this Ministry of Housing initiative and, as a result, our downtown core has developed most favourably. Phase two of the redevelopment, involving the joint Eaton Centre and Cadillac-Fairview venture, will begin the second week of May and is eagerly awaited by Sarnia's residents and business community alike.

As in so many other instances, this program was developed by the province after the federal government reneged on an earlier commitment to Ontario's municipalities, and in this case it was the urban renewal program that met its demise back in the late 1960s. With cancellation of this federal program, many Ontario cities were frustrated because they no longer had any hope of reviving their downtown cores.

The province, in characteristic fashion, stepped into this breach, identified the need, and the downtown revitalization program was the result.

I would like to make special note of the contribution of the late John Rhodes, who was the Minister of Housing at the time of the program's inception. His excellent initial work on this valuable program has been carried on by his very able successor, the present Minister of Housing (Mr. Bennett).

As mayor, I had opportunities to speak to my counterparts elsewhere in this province, and they all agree that this program is essential if medium-sized cities in Ontario with problems in their downtown centres are to be revitalized. I anticipate that there will be many more requests by Ontario cities for this type of assistance, and I hope the government will continue to make funds available to other centres that qualify for this type of assistance.

During my years in local politics I had the good fortune to serve on the executive board of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. I also served as vice-president of that fine organization, and in that capacity I grew to appreciate the importance of our municipal governments to the effective functioning of our province.

I think we all need to be reminded that our local councils represent a mature, responsible level of government and, although they are defined as "creatures of the province" under the Municipal Act, they are looking for and deserve a co-operative relationship with the province rather than a dependent one in order that they may carry out their responsibilities more effectively.

In particular, I think we need to look closely at removing some of the impediments to more flexible fiscal arrangements. I am referring to the possibility of block grants and more unconditional grants. In other words, we should be transferring more fiscal and legislative authority to help our municipalities to function optimally.

In conclusion, I would like to counter accusations already surfacing from members opposite that because our government now has a majority in this House we will become, and in fact have already become, an arrogant government.

As a new member, I have no desire to be part of a government that is not sensitive to the needs of the people who elected it. I would be the first to register my dismay if I thought this were the case. I do not happen to believe I am a member of an arrogant government. To the contrary, I believe I am a member of a government that recognizes its responsibilities and, as such, is prepared to take the necessary action to fulfil those responsibilities.

We have been given a clear mandate to act, and I look forward as the representative for Sarnia and as a member of the government party to taking whatever collective action is necessary to keep our great province strong so that we may keep the province of Ontario and the promise of Ontario.

Mr. J. A. Reed: Mr. Speaker, as I begin my remarks in this throne speech debate, I have to say I listened very intently to the words of the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt), who has discussed the subject of petroleum energy very thoroughly as it relates to the petrochemical industry, and I commend his words to the government he represents and to all of us in the House. It is a tragedy that the government he purports to represent does not understand the petrochemical situation as thoroughly or as completely as he does.

The member for Sarnia pointed out some things that we on this side have been trying to bring to the House for the last five years: that petroleum in its highest end-use role is really a petrochemical feedstock, that more net gain and more net wealth can be derived from a barrel of crude oil as a petrochemical feedstock than it can being relegated to simple combustion, that there are other energy forms that can be directed into the process of simple combustion, into the processes of mobility and so on.

We have harped at this province through the years, pointing out the opportunities that are available right here within the borders of

Ontario—to be met with studies, to be met with gratitude for studies we have done on this side but without any concrete action. As a result, we are here today and, I tell the member for Sarnia, virtually no further ahead than we were in 1975 when the reality of our energy future became abundantly clear.

5:30 p.m.

I am sure all the members of this House will remember that in 1976 my party stated the policy publicly about the reality of petroleum prices. We said at that time that prices were going to rise towards world level and that they had to rise towards world level. What we suggested publicly at that time was that the increases in price should be staged over the longest possible period so as not to initiate huge shocks on the economy at any particular time.

Perhaps some of the members here will recall the response of the government. I think it was four or five energy ministers ago—memory fades when I go back to those years—I believe it was the member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell) who immediately put a freeze on the inventory of petroleum inside the borders of the province. That was the only area where the government did have some control over the price of petroleum. He initiated a freeze on that 60 or 90 day supply or whatever it was.

The government proceeded for four years to rail against the official opposition for advocating a staged increase in the price of petroleum. We were accused of advocating world price. The truth is—and the government knows it—we did not advocate world price, but we did advocate that move towards world price. Had that begun in 1976 when this party advocated it, then the realities of petroleum would have come home to Ontario much more quickly, with comprehensive conservation, the search for alternatives and so on. The petrochemical industry today would not feel or have need to feel the vulnerability it does.

This government hid behind the feds for so long and blamed it all on the boys in Ottawa. But we know here we have the ability in this province—and they recognize it very slowly on that side—and we really do have the opportunity to become very nearly, if not totally, energy self-sufficient.

The government's response on the energy scene has been to take a portion of what it now calls the BILD program, which was the magical translation of the employment development fund at a lower cost, and attach some of that to the development of new energy sources in Ontario. To this day we have not seen anything concrete. As a matter of fact, I am deeply concerned about the Ministry of Energy and its whole thrust in these next few years. I received some disturbing information just recently that the staff within the ministry was changing at a senior level and at a rate that, in my view, is not conducive to progress and that we are not really going to get anywhere in these new areas.

The government's main answer in the throne speech to the energy situation as Ontario sees it has been, as the Premier (Mr. Davis) put it in a speech to the Association of Municipal Electrical Utilities of Ontario on March 2, the decision of the Ontario government was to press urgently "on the electrical button," in the words of the Premier. And while we continue to pay lip service to all of the alternatives that are available in the province, nothing happens except an acceleration of the expansion of an all ready overexpanded electric power system.

It would be commendable to do that if we could translate economically all of our energy needs into electric power utilization, which would be a commendable thing. Anyone who stops to think about it for a little while very quickly discovers that electric power does some jobs admirably, other jobs less well, some jobs very poorly and others it cannot do.

Yet the government seems to pay no heed. It takes a political stance on the acceleration of Darlington and tells us all that we are going to move into a magical, all-electric economy. There are not too many words about the cost of moving into it, nor about the reality of moving into it, nor the possibility of ever getting there, but lots of political rhetoric about how secure and wonderful everything is in Ontario.

Let us start with this electric power system and some of its proposed applications. First of all, we have an existing surplus of about 4,000 megawatts—the new members will get used to that term as the years go on—which accounts for about 25 per cent of overcapacity. The government proposes to address that surplus by advocating massive transfers into electric power utilization and even by increasing the rate of expansion.

Let us look at what would happen if tomorrow morning we were, magically, able to do some of the good things that electric power can do. Suppose we were to install half a million heat pumps in Ontario, electrify the GO transit system—something our party endorses—and also electrify the Windsor-Montreal rail corridor. The resulting increased capacity would

amount to half of the current surplus.

Let us also talk about the government and those supportive organizations that are urging people to convert to resistance electric heat. Does the government not realize that Ontario Hydro will require an investment of between $20,000 and $30,000 to support the generation for every new house that is built as an all-electric unit? It seems to me that we could find half a dozen alternative ways to better serve the people of Ontario with much less capital investment than building generating capacity simply to produce resistance heat.

The reason it is so costly is that we do not use those resistors all year round, and so any plants committed to resistance electric heat simply become idle 70 per cent of the time. The true cost of resistance electric heat in the home is not the three cents or 3.3 cents per kilowatt hour. The true cost is somewhere over seven cents per kilowatt hour.

5:40 p.m.

It seems, if one is planning an energy future, some of those things might be considered rather than simply the macro-concept that electric power is going to somehow save us all.

The completion of Darlington is somewhat uncertain at the present time. The Premier announced it during the election campaign; then the chairman of Ontario Hydro reported to the newspapers it was not going to take place. That was on March 27. A little later the chairman of Ontario Hydro said it would take place. That conflict between the government and Ontario Hydro, with the government winning out, brings up another situation that must be addressed at this time. That is the increasing interference by the government in the affairs of Ontario Hydro.

Considering the Minister of Energy (Mr. Welch) is here this afternoon listening to this, I would ask him to state at some time whether he and his ministry are now prepared, for the first time, for the government to become accountable to the public for Ontario Hydro. Two major incidents have taken place in the last five months concerning relations between the government and Ontario Hydro that are rather disconcerting, especially in light of the private member's bill that I, as member for Halton-Burlington, brought in regarding Hydro accountability and was accused—and I have the debates here—of wanting to get involved in the day-to-day affairs of Ontario Hydro. Nothing could be further from the truth.

In fact, the government has become involved in the day-to-day workings of Ontario Hydro on two major occasions. One was on December 15, 1980. The Minister of Energy wrote to the chairman of Ontario Hydro and told him to stop planning the western corridor system until the government had studied the report of the Royal Commission on Electric Power Planning. I believe that was the substance of the letter.

The government had had the Porter commission report in its hands for a number of months. It is also worth noting the corridors in the western part of Ontario are needed before the corridors in the rest of Ontario. Yet all the environmental assessment work had been done for the eastern lines. The government in its own wisdom chose to order Ontario Hydro to stop working on those western plans even though at that time they were considered to be a year late.

What is it the government fears about those plans for the western corridors? What is it that is so unpalatable to the people of western Ontario that the government does not want to reveal it? Is it that the government is going to need the lines so soon it will exempt those corridors from environmental assessment under the Environmental Assessment Act? I cannot believe it. Is it? Who knows? Who knows why the government directly interfered in the day-to-day workings of Ontario Hydro?

Then it happened again with the Darlington situation. The average growth rate predicted and accepted by Ontario Hydro between now and the next 20 years is 3.1 per cent. The government has accelerated the completion of Darlington, only to have the chairman of Ontario Hydro deny there would be any acceleration of completion and only to have the government come back and say, "Oh, yes, it will be speeded up." Then the chairman of Hydro says, "Oh, yes, it will be speeded up."

How much more interfering are they going to do in the day-to-day workings of Ontario Hydro to suit their political ends? If they are going to interfere in that very notorious way, are they at last going to take responsibility for it? Are they at last going to stand up in the House and become answerable for Ontario Hydro? Is the buck at last going to stop with the office of the Minister of Energy, or are we still going to hide behind the Power Corporation Act and say, "Oh, they are at arm's length and it is all divorced and we operate independently of one another"? I find that very upsetting.

I am also interested in this question of Hydro rates. We are always concerned about the cost of producing electric power from one source or

another. The House will remember when the nuclear decision was made by the government that it was promoted as being the cheapest source of electric power and the most secure source that could ever be available to the people of this province. Do members remember that? Do they remember the concern shown by the select committee over the years about the cost of that nuclear power and whether all the costs have been reckoned into the statements that nuclear comes in at so many mills per kilowatt-hour, coal comes in at so many mills, water power comes in at so many mills and so on? We challenged that and we were told in the select committee that those costs were written into the cost of electric power and not to worry. When we were told they were written in, we said, "What about the dismantling of nuclear plants that become obsolete?"

One of the former ministers is in the House. He will remember those things well. What about that dismantling? We were told by Ontario Hydro why those plants would never be dismantled. They would be upgraded as the years went by, but they would never be dismantled. We asked about the storage of nuclear waste. We were told there was a little amount written into the cost of electric power that was to look after the storage of nuclear waste. Now we have a majority government, and who knows whether we will have a reconvening of the select committee? What we see is an application pending for an increase in electric power rates for next year, about a quarter of which is to be committed to the storage of nuclear wastes and to the dismantling of nuclear power plants when they become obsolete 20 or 30 years down the road. Somebody is pulling the wool over somebody's eyes.

One wonders how much nuclear power really costs. If we take a quarter of that increase and realize that only a third of the electric power generated is nuclear and apply that to the nuclear costs, it means we are putting in reserve for use 20 years from now about $3 billion. If we take $56 million a year out of electric power consumers' pockets and invest it, hold it, compound it and do what we do with it, that comes to between $2 billion and $3 billion at the end of that 20 years. So that amount of money has to be added to the cost of producing nuclear power.

I am afraid somewhere down the road the full story has not been told, even though it has been known. Somebody held something back. I say that with the greatest respect. When we have a senior Hydro official who can stand up before the select committee and say, "We will never dismantle the plants," and then two years later have a commitment to an increase in the cost of electric power in order to dismantle the plants, who is kidding whom?

5:50 p.m.

I was reading a study the other day, a position paper—I think I have got it here—which probably tends to influence the courses of action that governments take from time to time. It is the position paper discussing an energy future for Ontario of August, 1980. One of the great myths of Ontario is perpetuated in this paper. I really don't blame the people who produced the paper because it is a myth that has been perpetuated by the government and by vested interests for the last decade at least. That is the myth—and I will use the quotation in the paper—that the alternate means of generating electric power are not here in Ontario. The sentence says "Most economic hydraulic resources have been developed."

When we start to compare the cost of alternative generation and we don't get the full cost of the other side, when somebody doesn't give us the whole cost of nuclear power, how can we make an intelligent choice? The truth is the fellows opposite haven't been making an intelligent choice. They haven't been making intelligent choices for the last five, six or seven years. They accept this myth and they have accepted some costs that have been handed to them about the cost of producing nuclear power. Now we know that nuclear power is more expensive than anybody ever thought, and what that does is make some of these lines that say many of these resources are uneconomic somehow suddenly economic.

I am deeply concerned. Do those guys know what they are doing? Do they really know? This is one member who has been an outspoken advocate of the further development of the remaining hydraulic resources in Ontario. They represent an amount of potential which is greater than that harnessed at the present time.

We have advocated private enterprise involvement in the development of that potential and we have said that we can develop an amount which is larger than all of the nuclear installations in place at present. It has been a long frustrating five years to try to persuade the elements of government that they have got to do a little bit of pioneering. I say to the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt) once again that if some of these actions were taken to relieve the burden of petroleum consumption, the actions which

we have advocated time and time again over these years, the petrochemical industry would be secure in Ontario today.

It is interesting to see that there is a study now under way on the use of peat. Suddenly the government has discovered that peat is a valuable resource. Indeed, this publication on the background by the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs says essentially what our party has been saying to this government for at least three years, that Ontario has the largest inventory of peat in Canada and Canada has one of the largest inventories of peat in all of the world. Yet it has remained until very recently the unrecognized, unaddressed energy resource in this province.

Peat can become the feedstock for either simple combustion or for the production of liquid fuels. Peat has tremendous potential in Ontario. As the Minister of Energy will remember, my party completed a study on an alternative liquid fuel, using as feedstock forest wastes, and gave some peripheral mention of peat at that time. But at least we said to the government and said to the people of Ontario: "Look, this is possible. If it is not economic today, there will be a time in the very near future when it will be economic."

Right now, as of this afternoon, we know that the production of fuel alcohol would compete favourably with gasoline. The government is undertaking a study of peat resources in the province. We should have pilot plants producing today. The technology is already in place. I met a manufacturer two months ago who has a portable methanol plant. He can truck it into the bush and follow the forest industry. He can take it to the peat bogs and manufacture an alternative to the petroleum which is so badly needed by the petrochemical industry in Sarnia.

It is interesting to note that in 1976 the government said it wasn't feasible. In 1978 the government said it wasn't feasible. Through all of those years they have done four studies on this alternative liquid fuel. Are they really serious? Do they really want to go ahead? Do they really want to make Ontario self-sufficient? They will not do it by the simple development of electric power to the exclusion of all else. They have to bring the others on line with equal interest, with equal investment, with equal research that they have done with the nuclear industry.

They cannot expect electric power to run the automobiles—perhaps some short-run automobiles around the city. We all know that the technology is not there yet to provide a long-term economic storage vehicle for electric power. We will still need liquid fuel alternatives. It doesn't matter if we go into the twenty-second century; we are still going to be needing liquid fuel alternatives.

In the next few years some of the chickens are going to come home to roost. The price of petroleum energy will accelerate at a rate that has made the past look like chicken feed. Part of that responsibility will have to be borne by a provincial government in Ontario which did not recognize or accept the realities five years ago. We may even, as the member for Sarnia has indicated, be faced with the situation of supply at whatever price. We are already a decade behind. We have to move forward.

I can tell members I am convinced that the next election may well be fought right over the gas pumps. It may be fought over allocation. It may be fought over skyrocketing prices. It may be fought over the absence of proper alernatives.

I can only say that my party, and for as long as I have the honour to be energy critic, will be committed to the alternatives, will be committed to the expansion of conservation, will be committed to the elimination of waste and will be committed to an imaginative, resourceful future.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

CONTENTS

Tuesday, April 28, 1981

Oral questions

Davis, Hon. W. G., Premier:

Health services, Mr. Smith, Mr. McClellan, Ms. Copps, Mr. Breaugh. 119
Company questionnaire, Mr. Martel. 122
Remarks by Paul Fromm, Mr. MacDonald. 124
Prices in northern Ontario, Mr. Stokes. 126

Henderson, Hon. L. C., Minister of Agriculture and Food:

Interest rates, Mr. Riddell, Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Smith. 123

Pope, Hon. A. W., Minister of Natural Resources:

Employee health and safety, Mr. Martel. 123
Land use in north, Mr. Foulds, Mr. T. P. Reid. 128

Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities:

Algonquin College, Mr. Wrye, Mr. Roy. 124
Skills training, Mr. Sweeney, Mr. Riddell. 130

Timbrell, Hon. D. R., Minister of Health:

Health services, Mr. Martel, Mr. Van. Horne,. 119
Mental health patients, Mr. Ruprecht, Mr. Breaugh, Mr. Di Santo. 127

Walker, Hon. G. W., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Provincial Secretary for Justice:

OPP investigation of hospital strike, Mr. Breaugh, Ms. Copps. 125
Beer at ball park, Mr. Peterson. 126
Redirection of questions, point of order, Mr. Mancini, Mr. Wells, Mr. Breaugh. 130

Bills; first readings

Dog Licensing and Livestock and Poultry Protection Amendment Act, Bill 18, Mr. Henderson. 132

Sheep and Wool Marketing Act, Bill 19, Mr. Henderson. 132

Personal Property Security Amendment Act, Bill 20, Mr. Walker. 132

Liquor Licence Amendment Act, Bill 21, Mr. Walker. 132

Racing Commission Amendment Act, Bill 22, Mr. Walker. 132

Fair Pricing Act, Bill 23, Mr. Swart. 133

Public Advocate Act, Bill 24, Mr. Swart. 133

Automobile Insurance Rate Control Board Act, Bill 25, Mr. Swart. 133

Consumer Protection Amendment Act, Bill 26, Mr. Swart. 133

Throne speech debate

Mr. Cassidy. 133

Mr. Brandt. 150

Mr. J. A. Reed. 155

Recess. 159

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Brandt, A. S. (Sarnia PC)
Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
Copps, S. M. (Hamilton Centre L)
Cureatz, S. L.; Deputy Speaker (Durham East PC)
Davis, Hon. W. G.; Premier (Brampton PC)
Di Santo, O. (Downsview NDP)
Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
Henderson, Hon. L. C.; Minister of Agriculture and Food (Lambton PC)
Hennessy, M. (Fort William PC)
Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)
MacDonald, D. C. (York South NDP)
Mancini, R. (Essex South L)
Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
O'Neil, H. P. (Quinte L)
Peterson, D. R. (London Centre L)
Pope, Hon. A. W.; Minister of Natural Resources (Cochrane South PC)
Reed, J. A. (Halton-Burlington L)
Reid, T. P. (Rainy River L-Lab.)
Riddell, J. (Huron-Middlesex L)
Roy, A. J. (Ottawa East L)
Ruprecht, T. (Parkdale L)
Sargent, E. C. (Grey-Bruce L)
Smith, S. L. (Hamilton West L)
Stephenson, Hon. B. M.; Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities (York Mills PC)
Sterling, Hon. N. W.; Minister without Portfolio (Carleton-Grenville PC)
Stokes, J. E. (Lake Nipigon NDP)
Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, J. (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
Timbrell, Hon. D. R.; Minister of Health (Don Mills PC)
Turner, Hon. J. M.; Speaker (Peterborough PC)
Van Horne, R. G. (London North L)
Walker, Hon. G. W.; Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Provincial Secretary for Justice (London South PC)
Wells, Hon. T. L.; Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Scarborough North PC)
Wrye, W. M. (Windsor-Sandwich L)

Ontario

No. 6

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



First Session, Thirty-Second Parliament
Tuesday, April 28, 1981
Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.



Hansard subscription price is $15.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Central Purchasing Service, Print Procurement Section, Ministry of Government Services, 8th Floor, Ferguson Block, Parliament Buildings, Toronto M7A 1N3. Phone (416) 965-2238.

Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 1981

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE
(continued)

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be able to participate in the throne speech debate, although I may say, looking around the House, that there may be some merit in the American practice of having one's speech typed and filed with the clerk rather than delivering it. Perhaps as the evening goes on one or two honourable members will wander into their seats. I would have thought there would be a full phalanx of the newly elected Tory back bench for the throne debate, and they are now trickling in.

I offer my congratulations to each and every one of the phalanx sitting there, all 22 of them. There is an immense field of opportunities waiting for them, as they look at the Tory cabinet on the front benches. There are ample opportunities for advancement, and there are some particular and special opportunities waiting for them.

We have a Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Henderson) who has the singular distinction of being invited by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture to step down. The member for Middlesex (Mr. Eaton) has first buy on that job. He has been eyeing it lasciviously for the last three years, but he has been passed over. So those from rural Ontario should be of good cheer, their day will come and probably very soon.

We have a distinguished Minister of Housing (Mr. Bennett) who has recently enunciated the unusual doctrine that housing in the city of Toronto is only for the rich. I would guess that his days are numbered too, and those members opposite from urban areas could look forward, not to the usual sojourn in the back benches of 10 years or so, but to rapid advancement, and that is one portfolio that obviously awaits a talented back-bencher.

Those members are coming into a House which has changed dramatically, but those of us on this side of the House have been looking for the last six years at a sadly depleted Tory party and a collection of cabinet ministers who really should have been where they are sitting now and they can hope to be rapidly promoted.

We have a minister of corporate protection, the honourable Tanglefoot, the greatest name in legal flypaper. What is he trying to do to the poor souls who made the mistake of investing in Re-Mor? He's trying to tie them up in as much legal red tape as it is possible for his twisty legal mind to devise. I wouldn't bet too much on that one opening up. I have a horrible suspicion that the honourable Tanglefoot is exactly what the government has in mind, and his position may be secure, but we do have a new Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea).

How long will it be before the new Minister of Community and Social Services has exhausted his reservoir of hot air and empty rhetorical promises? I don't think it will be very long before he is forced to show his true colours and to begin rednecking it in his ministry. The easiest way for a Minister of Community and Social Services to get the kind of attention that honourable minister likes to get is by welfare bashing.

I will make a modest prophecy. I don't like to prophesy, but I will venture to suggest a scenario which is that the Minister of Community and Social Services will make a number of promises which he will be completely unable to keep, and at that point he will turn on his clientele with a vengence.

We have one honourable minister in the front row, the Honourable the Attorney General-Solicitor General (Mr. McMurtry), occupying both portfolios with equal incompetence, characterized only by his own capacity to outdo himself as the bully boy of the province. Members opposite may look forward to one of those positions opening up, those of them with a legal background.

Mr. Laughren: Hopefully both of them.

Mr. McClellan: Hopefully both of them but I suppose that is too much to hope for.

We have a Minister of Labour (Mr. Elgie). What can I say about the Minister of Labour?

Mr. R.F. Johnston: That's more than enough.

Mr. McClellan: He is too red in his rhetoric for his own good, and given the tenor of appointments in the recent cabinet shuffle, I

would say that Bobby the Red's days are numbered. He has an unfortunate tendency to make rash, progressive promises 1hich he finds he is completely unable to deliver.

An example is job security. Whatever happened to job security? The Premier (Mr. Davis) told us what is going to happen to job security.

Whatever happened to the implementation of the occupational health and safety bill? Whatever happened to the designation of hazardous substances under that bill? Not one single hazardous substance has been designated since the bill was proclaimed into law, despite all of the promises and all of the rhetoric about protecting workers in the work places of this province against hazardous chemicals. My goodness, not even lead. They can't even designate a threshold limit value for lead.

8:10 p.m.

Mr. Haggerty: The heavyweights are over there though.

Mr. McClellan: Those of more Neanderthal persuasion can look forward, I suspect in a reasonably short period of time, to elevation to the Ministry of Labour.

Finally, the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mrs. Birch)—I refer to this entire group, if I may, as the Margaret Birch society. Of all the ministers, that minister has displayed not an iota of interest in co-ordinating the various ministries in the social development policy field. In fact, the last thing she tried to do seriously was in 1974, when she tried very hard and very capably to destroy the day care program in the province, but since she failed in that enterprise, she has retreated into her tea service never to be seen again.

The illustrious members of the cabinet who have obviously demonstrated their incapacity or their excessive rhetorical zeal will soon be replaced, I hope in the fall, and I say again to this incredibly awesome phalanx of 22 new members, your day will come and it will come probably pretty soon, so be of good cheer and continue to stick the knife into your colleague's back. It is a tradition in your caucus that needs to be upheld and is well honoured in the observance.

In my contribution to the throne debate, I want to talk about what I would hope would be a priority of this government—a rather morose hope—that during a period of economic squeeze, rampant inflation and high unemployment, the priority of the government must be with those at the lowest end of the social and economic ladder, those who are suffering most in our society.

I say it is a morose hope because, having read the throne speech, there is nothing but cruel lip service to those in our society who are disadvantaged, unfortunate or suffering, those who are unemployed, those who are sick, and the elderly. They receive cruel lip service in the throne speech. When they look at the promises that are made, that wonderful slogan, "Keep the promise"—I almost want to sing it; I do not know why, it just has such a ring to it—the promises in the throne speech are promises that have already been made in the past and already broken—and broken repeatedly—promising to keep promises that have already been broken.

On page 12 of the throne speech we read with amazement, "Continuing emphasis will be placed on community living for elderly and disabled persons." Is this a joke, Mr. Speaker? Are we looking at some demented refugee from Yuk Yuk's? Is this the throne speech or the promise of Ontario, "continued emphasis on community living for the disabled"?

Has this government forgotten the promises it made in 1974 to bring in legislation that would provide for attendant residential services, with attendant care services and support services built in. That promise was made to the disabled community in 1974 and it has not been kept.

Not only has it not been kept, but projects that have come forward for approval from various organizations have been turned down, denied, stalled, strangled in red tape. Last year we had the disgusting spectacle of the Three Trilliums Community Place facility that had been already built and the government refusing to allow handicapped people to occupy these apartments with attendant care services because it was insisting at the last moment, in the face of everything it had said over the last five years, that the municipality would have to make a contributory share to the operating costs of a residential facility with support services.

There is one promise that was broken twice, yet they have the gall in the throne speech to talk about continued emphasis on the disabled and about continued emphasis on the elderly.

This has to be read too, "A five-year provincial program will be started this spring to increase the capacity and improve the standards of homes for the aged throughout the province." A five-year program. That is marvellously symmetrical, because it coincides almost to the day with the preceding five years of an absolute freeze on construction of homes for the aged

across the province.

The results are clearly documented. There is a crisis in residential facilities for elderly people in Ontario as a result of this government's cutback program. It has been documented in a number of studies. Most recently the long-term needs committee of the Hospital Council for Metro Toronto sited an immediate need in Metro Toronto alone for 2,070 extra long-term care beds, 2,070 in one municipality. In London, the Thames Valley District Health Council estimated an immediate need for 400 nursing home care beds. In Thunder Bay, a study in the summer of 1980 showed that 100 chronic care beds were urgently needed.

In its throne speech, the government is simply promising to try to undo some of its own damage, some of the thoroughly vicious work this government has done over the past five years by instituting a complete freeze on homes for the aged beds and on nursing home beds.

The throne speech talks about serving the elderly in their own homes. Again, is this some kind of bad joke? How many times has this government promised home support services legislation? Has it been 10 times, 15 times over the last five years?

Mr. Brandt: It is happening now.

Interjections.

Mr. McClellan: I have seen the draft policy statement from the Ministry of Community and Social Services. It was suppressed and has never been released. It was supposed to be released as a white paper as a prelude to legislation. It is being suppressed and not released. It arrived at the office of my colleague, the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) via the brown paper bag courier service and I understand well why it was supressed because it is a piece of trash.

It is clear from the document that the Ministry of Health, which runs half the home support services to the elderly in this province, is refusing to talk at all to the Ministry of Community and Social Services, which has the responsibility for drafting legislation. It is obvious that the Ministry of Health has told the Ministry of Community and Social Services to get stuffed and that there is no possibility of co-ordinated, comprehensive and adequate legislation coming before this Legislature in this session unless some miracle of head thumping takes place. We always live in hope of miracles.

Mr. Brandt: You need one.

Mr. McClellan: No, the honourable member knows the government needs one if it is to bring that legislation in this session.

The draft we saw talked about user fees for home support services. That is really progressive—user fees for pensioners who are already living in poverty in order to obtain essential home support services. That is very progressive.

Second, the draft policy statement says home support service facilities will be farmed out to private enterprise to be provided on a profit-making basis.

8:20 p.m.

Mr. Martel: Shades of Darcy McKeough.

Mr. Laughren: The private sector has always looked after the needy.

Mr. Foulds: Meals on wheels provided by Versaservices with square wheels.

Mr. McClellan: That's right. Maybe Versafoods could provide the meals on wheels, instead of the network of community volunteers.

On page 13—this is really difficult to comprehend—the government had the sheer gall and hypocrisy to talk about the International Year of Disabled Persons, but it has to be read. Remember the International Year of the Child and all of the marvellous benefits that flowed from that fiasco? I want to read this because this is the kind of promise that is so indicative of this government's intentions.

On page 13, with reference to the International Year of Disabled Persons and all of the wonderful things, "With these and other initiatives, there is every indication that the attention being paid to this special event will produce many programs of lasting benefit, both within government and throughout the community at large."

There is every indication? What kind of a promise is that? The government is even hedging on its promise, and it has already broken the promise to the disabled. Do you remember the promises about an adequate transit service for the physically handicapped, Mr. Speaker? We are stuck with a transportation service that is only available on limited, rigid scheduling. If someone wants to—God bless them—go out on the weekend to attend a recreational event or a social or cultural event, or if they want to go out in the evening, they have to book, I think it's two weeks in advance.

I remember last year, during the Three Trilliums fiasco, a group of handicapped people, wheelchair people, was here meeting with myself and other members and the Minister of Com-

munity and Social Services. The meeting broke up in considerable disarray because at precisely four o'clock the Wheel-Trans-Service van arrived, and it could not be put off for anything, not even for the Minister of Community and Social Services. If these folks did not catch the van, they would have to—well, they would be stuck.

We have not dealt with the safety issue on the transit system for the physically handicapped. I have talked about the promises that were made with respect to accommodation for the physically handicapped and how those promises have been betrayed.

Do you remember the promises about amending part five of the building code? What ever happened to those promises? The last I heard, the last documents I saw on that broken promise indicated that the Provincial Secretary for Social Development was involved in a feud with the then minister of consumer and corporate protection, and the issue was whether or not residential accommodation would be covered in the new code so as to require the adaptation of residential facilities for the physically handicapped. And surprise of surprises. The minister of consumer protection was vigorously arguing against the accommodation of residential facilities to meet the needs of the handicapped. What a swell fellow he is.

Are we going to see that in this session? I doubt it very much. I imagine that whole thing is tangled deep within the interministerial bureaucracy and it will not emerge.

There is the question of jobs for the physically disabled during the International Year of Disabled Persons. We learned last year what kind of wonderful programs this government provides through the sheltered workshops. It provides employment and an average wage for the physically handicapped of 30 cents an hour in sheltered workshops. That is the average wage in this province in 1981.

Each and every one of those 30 cent an hour jobs is specifically exempted from the provisions of the Employment Standards Act and from the minimum wage by the Minister of Labour through a ministerial exemption. The Minister of Labour had promised that he was going to study this matter. He commissioned a study.

Mr. Laughren: Is this the red Tory the member was telling us about?

Mr. McClellan: This is the one with all of the marvellous rhetorical promises.

Mr. Laughren: Yes, I thought that was who he was talking about.

Mr. McClellan: He is going to give us a study as to whether it is such a good thing to give these kinds of exemptions.

The plight of handicapped people, with respect to employment, has not even been addressed by this government. We have made the suggestion time and time again that there is a unique role for the province of Ontario through the establishment of a provincial manpower program whose special mandate would be to provide employment for special groups of people who are traditionally excluded from the work force. We are talking of, among other groups, the physically handicapped people.

We have pointed to examples in other countries. In Great Britain, for example, the Remploy system, which is a network of crown corporations, engages in various manufacturing enterprises on an economically sound basis and provides thousands and thousands of jobs for physically handicapped people. There is absolutely no reason why this kind of a model could not be implemented here in Ontario, and what better time to do it than during the International Year of Disabled Persons? But no, we have a study from the Minister of Labour of the 30 cent an hour wages in sheltered workshops.

Mr. Laughren: Yes, but how could they pay them 30 cents then?

Mr. McClellan: It would be hard to pay people 30 cents an hour if they ever did get serious.

I simply ask, during the International Year of Disabled Persons, will the government restore the money—how can I put this—that it stole from the disabled when it brought in the new tax credit program?

Mr. Laughren: Do you think these new backbenchers understand this?

Mr. McClellan: Let me try to explain. The new tax credit program is not available to charitable institutions which do not pay property tax.

I have in my riding a facility called Bellwoods Park House, which is for, in the main, people who have cerebral palsy. It is a charitable foundation. Up until this year, they were receiving $278 a year each under the tax credit program. When the government changed to a tax grant program, these people were disentitled and they lost $278. To replace that, they were given an increase of $10 a month in the comfort allowance. They were already below the poverty line.

The Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) wrote to a representative of one of the organizations concerned and said: "The province realizes, however, that the loss of property tax relief may impact negatively on persons of more modest means. As a result, the comfort allowance in institutions was increased $10 a month." I guess that is a net saving of almost $150 a year per person to the Treasurer of Ontario. It is another great accomplishment during the International Year of Disabled Persons. Members may simply prefer to regard it as some kind of theft of money from people who are already living in a state of extreme deprivation.

The promises proliferate on page 13. "The government affirms the commitment to meet the needs of developmentally handicapped children." It goes on to talk about special needs agreements. What they do not seem to be willing to talk about in the throne speech, Mr. Speaker, is that they are not only bringing in special needs agreements, they are also bringing in user fees, which they charged against the parents of developmentally handicapped children.

They do not talk about the other promises that have been made with respect to residential facilities for developmentally handicapped children, for example again, in Metropolitan Toronto. Remember the great facility that was going to be built in Etobicoke, with a network of satellite group homes throughout Metropolitan Toronto? Whatever happened to that one? I guess it has evaporated.

8:30 p.m.

What about the promises made on May 20, 1980, by the Ministry of Community and Social Services to rescue approximately 400 developmentally handicapped children from institutional incarceration in homes for special care? Do you remember that promise, Mr. Speaker? Maybe none of the newly elected back-benchers remembers that promise.

It was discovered that there were almost 3,000 mentally retarded people living in nursing homes in this province without a shred of service except for room and board. The day after this news hit the press, the combined ministries of Community and Social Services, Education and Health announced, with great fanfare, a major program to rescue all of these people, starting with the children.

The promise was made that by September 1980 each and every one of the 400 children would have an individual assessment, and an individual program would be designed for him or her and put in place. To my knowledge not a single program has been put in place for a single child, and the government has the hypocrisy to say that it affirms its commitment to developmentally handicapped children.

Another example is the Brant Sanitorium, which houses a number of developmentally handicapped children in the Brantford area. It is one facility. Part of it is a chronic care hospital, part of it is a home for special care and part of it is funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services as a schedule II facility for developmentally handicapped children at about three times the per diem allowed for special care. So it is possible for the Brant Sanitorium to provide adequate program and services to those children who are lucky enough to live in the schedule II facility, but it is completely unable to provide anything except custodial care for those who live in the part of the facility dedicated to special care.

The government agreed a year and a half ago that this did not make any sense, and it promised it would redesignate the entire Brant Sanitorium as a schedule II facility, with a decent per diem, so that they could provide the occupational therapy which would prevent disabled children from developing muscle contractions, which cause muscle shrinkage and necessitate that bones be broken to correct the problem.

The government understands this. Yet, in the throne speech, it affirms its commitment to the needs of developmentally handicapped children.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, before very long your government is going to be in court over the systematic neglect of children in homes for special care for developmentally handicapped children in this province. It is going to be sued for failing to provide the necessities of life. I am afraid that is the only way to compel it to have the decency to honour the commitments it has made over the past four or five years.

On page 11, the government affirms its continued strong support for health care in the province. Yesterday, we saw a wage settlement that will give the specialist practitioners in the province an average income, I gather, of $96,000 a year. The premiums will undoubtedly be increased on May 19 to pay for this generous increase, and extra billing will continue unabated. There is absolutely nothing the government has done to stop the practice of extra billing.

I gather—and I say "I gather" because it is hard to get information out of the Ministry of Health and our information is in some cases six

months old—the number of opted out full-time doctors in this province is 12.5 per cent for general practitioners and 38.8 per cent for specialists. That is the number of full-time general practitioners and specialists who have opted out of the OHIP program.

When one looks at it on a county by county basis, it is really quite terrifying. In the Regional Municipality of York, 57.8 per cent of the specialists are outside the plan. In Peel, 41.1 per cent of the specialists are outside the plan. In Peterborough, 37.2 per cent of the specialists are outside the plan; and in Metro Toronto 36.2 per cent of the specialists are outside OHIP. In Halton, 32.8 per cent of the specialists are outside the OHIP plan and the government continues to say there is no problem, that there continues to be strong support for the health care system.

The government will probably continue with its program of hospital cutbacks, cutbacks of the purchasing power of the health dollar. It will guarantee to each and every citizen of this province the right of entry to a hospital through the emergency corridor, will guarantee the opportunity to a space overnight in a hospital corridor. There is nothing in the throne speech or in the statements of the Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell) that would indicate the government is prepared even to acknowledge the severity of the cutback program it has unleashed against our hospitals over the course of the last five years, or that it are prepared to deal with it in any way, shape or form.

On page 14 of the throne speech, the government addresses forthrightly and vigorously the problems within our mental health care system and it reads as follows, "A mental health coordinator will be appointed to formulate new policies and plans." Well, that is very reassuring in the light of the excessively documented plight of discharged psychiatric patients in Metropolitan Toronto and other communities. The Minister of Health simply continues to wash his hands like Pontius Pilate. It is no concern of his if they are living in squalor, if they are being exploited by rapacious landlords, if they are the victims of all kinds of political charlatans. He says he has no responsibility.

Surely a minimum act of decency on the part of the Minister of Health would be to consider the kind of program that has existed in British Columbia since 1978 which provides ex-psychiatric patients with a long-term care program. It is available at per diem rates to provide group home facilities with the appropriate support services.

This minister is simply interested in closing psychiatric hospitals like Lakeshore and letting the chips fall where they may. That is a situation that is becoming increasingly explosive within Metropolitan Toronto. The government can smirk and say: "There is no problem. There is nothing wrong. Everything is fine in the mental health care system."

People are dying. Inquests are being held. The number of ex-psychiatric patients who are obviously a risk to themselves and to other people is increasing.

Queen Street Mental Health Centre is obviously overcrowded. I happen to represent the riding in which Queen Street Mental Health Centre is located. There is an increasingly difficult problem at that facility because it is overcrowded and patients are wandering out into the community during the day and during the night.

They are sitting on a time bomb over there. If they do not think it is going to go off they have their heads so deeply in the sand that—

Interjections.

8:40 p.m.

Mr. McClellan: I am warning the government. They are sitting on a time bomb. They are going to have to accept responsibility for the provision of residential services and support services to a defined group of ex-psychiatric patients. They cannot simply pretend there is no problem in this community. There is a serious problem in this community. It will only be solved by the government, first, acknowledging there is a problem, and second, assuming a responsibility to provide the kinds of resources that ex-psychiatric care patients need. Not all patients, of course—we are not talking about all the patients. But there are at least 2,000 people in the Parkdale area alone who are in real distress. The government knows this, but it continues and continues to deny it, and again, in the throne speech, provides empty promises and empty rhetoric.

The only area of the health care system that seems to excite any real interest on the part of the minister and the cabinet is the current campaign of bully-boy tactics against Ontario's hospital workers.

Compare the treatment of our physicians with the treatment of the hospital workers. The doctors yesterday got a $12,000-a-year increase. The average wage of a hospital worker is just a little more than $12,000. It is not enough that

they are discriminated against economically; not enough that hundreds and hundreds of hospital workers have received summary suspension from their hospitals; not enough that dozens and dozens of hospital workers have been summarily dismissed by their hospitals.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: For what reason? Why were they dismissed?

Mr. McClellan: Here we have the Solicitor General-Attorney General masterminding a witch hunt against all those who broke the law.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Yes, they broke the law.

Interjections.

Mr. McClellan: During the election campaign, at rally after rally, the Premier, his most Christian majesty, said time and time again, "The law must be obeyed; the law must be obeyed; the law must be obeyed."

I have been lectured in this Legislature by his most Christian majesty about the righteousness of forgiveness. Some members may recall that after a transgression by one of his backbenchers, the Premier lectured us, and me in particular, on how nice it would be if we would recall the words of the Lord's prayer, "Forgive us our trespasses." Yet the Premier says day after day, "The law must be obeyed; the law must be obeyed." The only law I think he is referring to is the one that says an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.

Interjections.

Mr. McClellan: It speaks to a real sense of compassion and fairness and decency, does it not?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Order.

Mr. McClellan: I will have to silence my unruly colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Smith) referred to the plight of the middle class. That seemed to be the main theme of his speech, and it i good politics, undeniably. He did refer, en passant, to the plight of minimum-wage earners in the province. I recall that he said what minimum-wage earners want is a decent pension. That is what he said.

Mr. Foulds: Based on their best three years, probably.

Mr. McClellan: Yes, perhaps he meant based on their best three years. I do not dispute that minimum-wage earners want a decent pension, but perhaps they also want a decent minimum wage. Is that too much to ask? Is anyone concerned, in a serious way, about the plight of low income citizens during a period of vicious government restraint and double digit inflation?

As I mentioned earlier, yesterday the doctors got a wage settlement which will bring the average salary of specialist physicians to $96,000 a year, which is about $90,000 a year more than the minimum-wage earner makes.

Mr. Nixon: Is that the average net?

Mr. McClellan: That is the average net, as I understand it.

I do not think there has ever been a period in the history of this country when there were such tremendous wage gaps between the rich and the poor. It is inconceivable to me how anyone can live on $6,000 a year. I cannot remember when there was that kind of spread between those at the bottom and those at the top.

Mr. Nixon: Tory times are hard times.

Mr. McClellan: Perhaps the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk could put that to music. I am sure he could come up with a catchy jingle.

The need for a major reform of our income security system has been self-evident in this province and in this country for over 10 years. I believe it was during the election campaign that the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto, jointly with the Ontario Welfare Council, documented, once again, the fact that low income people in this province are falling farther and farther behind.

They point out, as well, that between 1975-76 and 1980-81 the human services share of the total provincial budget has decreased from 63 per cent to 61 per cent, that since 1975 the levels of social assistance benefits have fallen behind the rate of inflation. But I heard the government whip say that there are no cutbacks in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: That is not a cutback.

Mr. McClellan: No, of course it is not a cutback. We all understand that. The people who understand that most explicitly are the people on social assistance.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. McClellan: This has simply been a preamble and I now come to the body of my remarks. I want to address myself to what the throne speech does for those on fixed incomes, for those on social assistance, for those on disability pensions, for injured workers and for those on pensions. It is, in a word, nothing.

The current pension net in this province and in this country is referred to in the throne speech. Everybody knows it is a national dis-

grace, and that we have one of the worst pension systems in the western industrial world. We have never put together an adeyuate pension system in this country.

8:50 p.m.

The government has ignored all of the critical studies of the pension crisis that have been done over the course of the last 15 years. Finally they appointed the Haley commission, which eventually reported.

What did the commission say? "The commission has found that there is at present no system for retirement income provision in either Ontario or Canada." I don't know whether that is exactly what the government was expecting them to report. We have been trying to tell the government over the course of the last 10 years that pensioners in this province are impoverished by the lack of a comprehensive public pension system.

The government seemed, in its own lurching way, to recognize this in the 1978 budget, on budget paper B. Mr. McKeough's staff pointed out in that paper that approximately 82 per cent of the senior citizens in Ontario received 50 per cent of retirement income, and the other 50 per cent of retirement income goes to the remaining 18 per cent.

It seemed to be starting to dawn on the Treasurer at that time that perhaps there was something a little bit skewed about a retirement system that allocated about half of the available retirement income to 18 per cent of the people. Perhaps there was something just a little out of kilter, they weren't really sure what. Now they have the report of the royal commission on pensions to enlighten them.

Before I get into the content of the pension debate as it will take place in this assembly—and I hope throughout the country over the course of the next while—I can't pass up the opportunity to make a reference to the issue of whether the Canada pension plan should be fully funded or pay as you go.

Remember how much Darcy McKeough used to rant and howl about how the Canada pension plan had to be fully funded, otherwise the fund would go bankrupt? Remember when it was an article of holy writ on the part of this government that the Canada pension plan had to be fully funded? What does Miss Haley say about that issue on page 22? "The potential exhaustion of the fund with the spectre of disillusioned retirees is a fanciful scenario given prominence by the press."

Perhaps one of the reasons it was given prominence by the press is because it was the official policy of the government of Ontario from the time the Canada pension plan was established until very recently. After all these years of babbling about a fully funded Canada pension plan, the government suddenly realized—perhaps somebody bought the new Treasurer a calculator and he was able to figure it out—that if the plan was fully funded, the amount of capital savings in the fund would add up to literally trillions and trillions of dollars. I wonder why it did not occur to Mr. McKeough.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Darcy couldn't count that high.

Mr. McClellan: It did not occur to Mr. McKeough because he had no interest in anything except cheap borrowing from the Canada pension plan. The present Treasurer has no interest in pensions either, as will become self-evident.

What does the report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Pensions in Ontario actually say? First they say there will be absolutely no reforms which will increase the Canada pension plan. It will stay at a maximum ceiling of 25 per cent of pensionable earnings pegged at 25 per cent of the average industrial wage. There will be absolutely no increase or enrichment in the old age security program. They will cut out the spouse's allowance entirely. They will, in a word, rely on thrift—individual savings—to meet the needs of retired Canadians, and they reject completely any comprehensive reforms to the structure of benefits for the public pension system.

Our illustrious Treasurer spoke on April 23 and delivered his government's response to the Haley commission. I want to spend some time on this because it is so utterly bizarre. The Treasurer begins, early on in his speech, by repeating the old shibboleth about thrift and individual saving and reliance on the free market and on individual responsibility for the provision of retirement income.

Mr. Martel: This sounds like the debate on old age pensions.

Mr. McClellan: It is the debate on old pensions updated by 40 years.

The Treasurer says on page two: "There is a fundamental premise behind the report that I have no hesitation in endorsing because it sums up quite well my own personal view of pension reform: 'There is general agreement that retirement is an individual matter and ultimately the individual will be responsible for his or her own

retirement. Individual needs and desires require flexibility which cannot be given by group programs or universal social programs."

Mr. Foulds: That is the biggest cop-out of the century.

Mr. McClellan: He goes on to repeat the same banal theme on page five: "As I stated in my reference to the royal commission report, our government believes in preserving a system that provides flexibility so that individual needs and desires can be met."

He goes on in his statement of guiding principles to give as the first of these that the principle vehicle for reform should be the private sector. "It is a point I have made before in this speech and is one I will repeat again. Only the flexibility of the private sector can meet individual needs and desires. A universal program simply cannot do the trick."

Mr. Laughren: Why have they not done it?

Mr. McClellan: Then in the Globe and Mail, where at least he had the decency not to read from the text, I gather—he threw the text away—he was quoted the next day as follows: "Rather than putting their faith in a universal pension plan, Canadians should construct a loose network of private programs supplemented where necessary by government benefits. Ideally the major share of an individual's retirement income would come from employment pension plans, profit-sharing schemes and individual savings."

What does the royal commission on pensions really mean when it talks about individual responsibility for retirement planning? It means the provincial universal retirement system, PURS, which is a money purchase plan, ideally designed to provide somewhere between 15 to 20 per cent of pre-retirement income. It would be paid for, according to the royal commission, by employer and employee contributions. The money in the privately purchased account, the capital, would be invested in the private sector to purchase a retirement pension.

There are certain obvious flaws in that approach. One flaw—the members may be alarmed to learn or relieved to learn, depending on their point of view—is that the scheme does not mature until 47 years after its inception. Most of us will be dead by then. That is something we can look forward to in perspective.

Another possible flaw is that an individual contributor could not have the slightest shred of a clue what his or her benefit would be, because that is the nature of a money purchase plan.

So we are offering a plan that does not mature until 47 years from its inception, for which the benefit is completely undetermined, unspecific and unknowable. It does not sound like a very promising proposition for any responsible business to be offering to the public on the free market but, of course, that is not the intention.

On page three of the report the commission states that, in its opinion, it is impossible to achieve portability in a system of individual employer plans. The only recourse is to a universal compulsory plan that will solve not only the portability problem, but the coverage problem as well.

They then go on to rule out for ideological reasons expansion of the Canada pension plan and then they say: "The government of Ontario should adopt without delay a provincial universal retirement system with a money purchase designed to provide a reasonable amount of replacement income on an earnings related basis in a compulsory, portable, universal and fully funded plan with individual choice for investment in form of benefit." Compulsory?

9 p.m.

I do not recall the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) mentioning this in his speech to the Burlington Chamber of Commerce. I read his speech very carefully and nowhere did I find in there reference to a compulsory, universal, free enterprise pension scheme.

I do not recall him talking to the good members of the chamber of commerce about a proposal to conscript citizens into the free market and into the private insurance industry by government legislation. I do not recall the Treasurer standing up anywhere and saying that he intends to legislate everybody into the private insurance industry. I do not recall the Treasurer laying down in his set of guiding principles about thrift, individual responsibility, individual freedom and freedom of the economy, that he wants to draft everybody by law into his friend's business.

What kind of totalitarian nonsense is the government proposing? The corporate state arrives in full flower in the guise of the jolly Miller from Muskoka.

Those guys opposite are mountebanks, they are charlatans, they are frauds. They are preaching free enterprise and the virtue of individual initiative. At the same time, do they think they can force this kind of scam down the throats of the people of this province? Not likely. Who do they think will fall for this kind of bunk? Who do

they think will support government intervention to expand and guarantee a market for the services of the private pension industry?

Mr. Laughren: The back-benchers.

Mr. McClellan: Is that what the government is seriously proposing? Is that what the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Grossman) is proposing as the solution to our country's and our province's pensions?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We support our colleagues over here.

Mr. Laughren: Do you support this? Never mind that, do you support this? Why don't you answer the question?

Interjections.

Mr. Foulds: You make your father look good.

Interjections.

Mr. McClellan: I have already reached the summit of my ambition, I want to tell you that, Mr. Speaker. I would like one member of the cabinet to stand up here in this House and say that he supports that recommendation of the royal commission on pensions and that it is the policy of the government of Ontario to support government intervention to expand and guarantee a market for the services of the private pension industry.

Are there any takers? I suspect not.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The Treasurer speaks for us.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Since when did you let the Treasurer speak for you?

Interjections.

Mr. McClellan: I suspect that sooner or later even the members of this cabinet are going to read the report of the royal commission on pensions. I suspect that even the Minister of Industry and Tourism is liable to gag on its contents. Even he is liable to be just slightly unnerved at the enthusiastic response of the Treasurer to this utter bilge.

Mr. Foulds: That is if he does not gag on his own tongue first.

Mr. McClellan: There are only two possibilities. The royal commission on pensions has clearly established that there are only two choices.

The choice it has set out is patently absurd, it is idiotic, and that is why we have a select committee instead of a package of pension legislation. You are not going to get a government to support that kind of nonsense, Mr. Speaker. The member for Lakeshore (Mr. Kolyn) is laughing hysterically at the prospect of government conscription of the private insurance industry.

There is only one possibility. There is only one proper path for reform of the pension system of this country. It has been set out dozens and dozens of times. There is only one rational choice and it lies in the expansion of the public pension system.

The only problem with the pension system structurally in this country is that the structure of benefits has been set too low. The reform of the pension system is remarkably simple. It has been undertaken in virtually every other western industrial country except ours. It lies in the following points and I would like to set them out.

The Canada pension plan benefits should be increased to 50 per cent of earned income up to 1.5 times the average industrial wage. That is not a radical notion in any sense. It is simply common sense and common decency. It was endorsed by Senator Croll's committee and was the recommendation of the federal task force on retirement income policy. None of this Rube Goldberg stuff about PURS—a simple upward adjustment of the structure of benefits under the Canada pension plan to 50 per cent.

Second, old age security benefits could be established and pegged at 15 per cent of the average industrial wage. Third, a minimum CPP benefit based on 50 per cent of the average industrial wage would be established to recognize the value of labour outside the economy.

There are a number of other refinements which will be dealt with when we get into the debate in full and when the work of the select committee on pensions begins. For the life of me, I do not understand how the government is going to get out of the mess the royal commission has got it into. The PURS program, I repeat again, is absolute insanity.

There are no ways of providing artificial respiration to the private insurance industry except by forcing everyone into it by legislation and I doubt very much if even this government is that stupid. Now I could be wrong. We could all be wrong.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Be charitable now; be charitable.

Mr. McClellan: Yes, I will. The minister may be that stupid. I know the Treasurer is. The question is, do the rest of them know what he is up to? I am just trying to help the minister. We are just here to help him.

I would like also to suggest that, when we get

to the details of working out a pension reform proposal that recognizes the only course is to reform the public pension system, we do two things as well. First, that we make provisions for flexible retirement between the ages of 60 and 70, so that the kinds of things the member for Humber (Mr. Kells) is talking about with respect to flexible retirement can actually take place. We are not going to support flexible retirement until we have a pension system that makes provision for early retirement.

Second, the government should bring forward proposals that recognize some occupations are more hazardous than others and that some workers cannot be expected to work fully to the age of 65. I think of miners. I think of some construction workers who simply are unable physically to continue to work past clearly marked ages. Work has been done in other countries around developing hazardous occupation schedules that are fitted into the public pension system so that people do not have to work until they drop dead.

9:10 p.m.

I have been going on at length and I will show mercy to all by cutting out the rest of my speech. I just wanted to echo the remarks that my leader made and conclude this discussion of the need for income security reform by talking about the needs in this province and in this country for universal accident and illness insurance.

The number of people in this province who are on social assistance for the exclusive reason of illness, accident or disability is phenomenal, something in the order of 16 per cent of welfare recipients and 30 per cent of provincial family benefits recipients. The cost to the provincial Treasury is a major one.

There is nothing more agonizing for members of this Legislature than trying to put together a package of income for a family whose breadwinner is disabled. It is made up of a combination of paltry amounts of money from workmen's compensation, Canada pension disability, provincial family benefits and general welfare assistance at the municipal level. And after you put together the complete package of income for a disabled family, they are still living below the poverty line.

The throne promise of implementation of the Weiler report is clouded because the Treasurer has already given veto over reforms to the Canada pension plan. It is more difficult to accomplish universal accident and illness insurance when the government has vetoed, in advance, the possibilities of enriching the Canada pension plan disability proposal. Nevertheless it is clear that the kind of short-term reforms that Weiler indicates would be the basis of his legislation will still not be adequate.

We are prepared to adopt a wait and see attitude towards the Weiler report. We have generally been pleased with the work that Mr. Weiler did in his study of the workmen's compensation program, but we see it as a short-term reform.

I would warn the government that any legislation that they might bring in is going to have to deal with the tens of thousands of injured workers who are currently on Workmen's Compensation Board pensions. Mr. Weiler seems to be of the opinion that he could ignore those who are currently victims of the Workmen's Compensation Board if he brought in a brand new day for those who will be injured in the future.

I want to put the government on notice that that is not nearly good enough, if that is their intention. It is going to have to deal with the needs of the disabled who are currently on workmen's compensation permanent pensions.

Ultimately the government will have to bring in a reform that acknowledges that it is absolute insanity to award a disability pension to somebody who injures himself between nine and five and to deny entitlement to somebody who injures himself off the job. It simply does not make any sense.

The proliferation of bureaucracies and programs serves no one's interest; not those of good government or decent administration and, least of all, the needs of those who are in need of income support by virtue of accident, illness or disability.

Universal accident and illness insurance has been demonstrated in other jurisdictions to be a successful program, a successful approach to the kinds of problems that have plagued both the social assistance program and the workmen's compensation program from time immemorial. Technically we know how to bring about these reforms. All we need is the will and commitment on the part of the government to proceed.

As I say, we will adopt a wait and see attitude to the legislation that the Minister of Labour will be bringing forward. We hope that we can support and applaud it. I mean that very sincerely. For many of us on this side of the House there is no issue that has been more important to us or to our constituents. We look forward to that legislation with real anticipation. I want to say that I hope that we are not bitterly disappointed.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for your kind attention.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Gordon.

[Applause].

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that is not the last time the opposition will clap for one of my speeches, but I am sure they are going to give very careful consideration to what I have to say this evening. I am sorry to see those young people who were here earlier this evening had to leave, otherwise they could have heard an edifying speech from the other side of the House.

There is one thing I am very conscious of, and I think the people of Sudbury are conscious of, and that is the importance of having roots. I think back to the time when my grandfather Gordon came as an immigrant from England. When he first came to Canada he got off the boat and went up to Cobalt. He did not have any money left so he went to work that afternoon in the concentrator. He lived two miles down the track outside of Cobalt in what could be termed, quite accurately, as a log shanty. They had to chink between the logs in order to make a habitation that was at least half decent for the raising of children.

As well, some years later, my own father worked for a number of mining companies such as O'Brien Gold, International Nickel and even the Moose Mountain people, as I would point out to the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel). When he was 50 years of age he left Inco. When he left, he left without a pension. I am not unaware of some of the problems that arise out of that particular situation.

My grandfather on the other side, grandfather Kilby, came with his family from Buckingham to Sudbury in 1894. I well remember the story about how he had to lead the horse and buggy through the sulphur gas that hung so heavily along the ground.

I relate these incidents because I think it is important to understand that we all come from different backgrounds, we all come from different faiths, nationalities and languages, but all of us, if we look deeply enough into our own lives and the lives of our ancestors, will see that we all came from people who had to work hard. People had to make a lot of sacrifices to build the kind of Ontario we live in today.

What we have today did not come about by accident. It did not come about necessarily because somebody complained, but it came about because people had a faith in the future of Ontario and Canada. I have to say here, very clearly, that I have that faith in Ontario.

9:20 p.m.

So that the opposition and my own government members will perhaps understand me a little better in the years to come, I will tell them that my first working experience was at about the age of 13, in a bowling alley. I might say that I was one of the better pin setters, good at dodging those five-pin balls that were thrown down the alley. Those of you who are from the Sudbury area may recall that it was across from the courthouse, which subsequently burned down. Now there are offices for a number of lawyers on the site.

I later moved on to work for Gamble and Robinson Limited, unloading boxcars, and when I was 16, I worked underground with Smith and Travers on 1600 level at Creighton. I well remember how my ears rang for a couple of weeks after I started, which was long before men were required to wear the devices designed to save their hearing. Mr. Speaker, you can be sure that there are many former miners or smelter workers who are still suffering from the ringing that I experienced at a very tender age. We must all be very cognizant of the problems and disabilities that people have.

We on the government side and those who are sitting on the opposition side have to give very careful consideration to the Weiler report on workmen's compensation. I have read it and I am impressed with what Mr. Weiler has done to date.

The speech from the throne contains many things which show that we are still a progressive province with a progressive government. It states that the province will develop specific research innovation centres in auto parts technology, computer assisted manufacturing and robotics and microelectronics, and that a special multimillion dollar fund to finance new high technology firms will be established through the Ontario Development Corporation. This is important for Ontario's and Canada's future. We cannot afford to fall behind the United States, the European common market, Japan or Germany. I am excited by the prospects.

The province of Ontario has recognized that we must spend money in this field, but at the same time I want to say that Cliff Pilkey talks about the changes that are going to come through automation, computers and the technology that we have today, and they are going to be severe changes for the people who work in Ontario. I think we have to keep that in mind. I

would hope that, as a government that is responsive to people, we will launch a two-pronged approach to the whole problem of automation and technology, especially as it affects Ontario.

We must recognize that there are going to be problems for our people. The time has come when we have to get away from the idea that business is business, labour is labour and government is government, and that although we happen to touch or talk together sometimes, one is the other's enemy and we cannot trust each other.

The changes you are going to see because of technology and automation and robotics in the 1980s are going to be such that no government, and certainly no opposition, can afford to be negative and not to take a positive stance with regard to the problems that we are going to face. I view this as a challenge to which I am sure everyone in this Legislature will be glad to respond.

The BILD program has particular significance for Sudbury, and I would like to review with this Legislative Assembly why it has caught the imagination of the people of Sudbury and the north and raised their expectations. In one sense Sudbury is an anomaly within the framework of Ontario. It is a mining town that grew into a cosmopolitan city of 93,000 and a region of 160,000—and I would like the member for Sudbury East to listen to this—despite the fact that its economic engine was and still is rooted in two multinational firms.

Unlike other mining communities in Ontario and in Canada's mining history that had a much shorter span of life because their ore bodies were short-lived, Sudbury has continued to grow and prosper because the ore body in the Sudbury basin is of such a size that new reserves of ore are being found each year.

However, in September 1979, Mr. J. Edwin Carter, chairman and chief executive officer at Inco Limited, came to regional council in Sudbury. He told the regional council and the community that, in spite of the long-term prospects of growth for the company: "Our Canadian ore bodies are sufficient to support production at an optimal rate for decades. The people of Sudbury should begin to look to other areas for diversification of the Sudbury basin economy."

The message was clear and unequivocal. Ore is a diminishing resource and it takes time to develop new economic activities. The one positive note that existed in Mr. Carter's speech was the promise to work with the community: "We are prepared to work with you and others to ensure that our policies, plans and actions are co-ordinated with those of the community. We pledge our continued general support"—I would like members to note the words, "general support."—"of significant diversification, efforts that will strengthen the economic base of Sudbury."

It is upon this last point I wish to dwell. While it is clear in the BILD program the government recognizes mineral production is Ontario's leading primary industry and that more must be done to foster its growth, it also recognizes Canada has had a poor record of performance in designing and building machinery and equipment for its resource sector.

In 1977, the last year for which figures are available, the mining industry spent $900 million on new equipment and parts, of which $480 million or 53 per cent was imported.

Mr. Martel: You are stealing my line. That is my working paper.

Mr. Gordon: No one has the monopoly on facts. It is just that some people like to believe they have the truth. There are some people who sit there.

In my view, Mr. Speaker—I am glad I have your attention, Mr. Speaker; I noticed you were sort of nodding there—we have been too caught up in being a resource nation and province rather than a manufacturing one. I do not think I would get any argument from anyone in this Legislative Assembly this evening.

However, the BILD program addresses itself to this serious problem and makes a commitment to establish in Sudbury a resource machinery advisory board and states the province is, "Prepared to make direct equity investment in existing machinery companies to aid new companies to establish and to encourage companies to invest in creating a more vigorous and versatile resource machinery industry."

The people of Sudbury are heartened by the clear intent of the BILD program. They are keenly aware that, unlike other major economic centres in North America where a major employer usually means the community has many suppliers and small manufacturers feeding the major economic engine, this has been woefully lacking in the Sudbury basin.

The fact Sudbury is the dynamic city and region it is today, with its hospitals, university, civic square, excellent municipal services and strong community spirit is largely due to the people of Sudbury, a people who never quit, a

people who know how to produce in the work place and a people who are determined to make it happen.

I want to state categorically that two of the components necessary to make this BILD program a success in Sudbury are present—the province and the people of Sudbury. But we will only succeed if the third component, the multinationals within the Sudbury basin, throw their full-hearted support in specific ways behind the program.

9:30 p.m.

While their role may involve a financial commitment, it is quite conceivable that economic activity directly or indirectly related to the mining industry will come about because of the influence and power that Inco and Falconbridge can exert in the boardrooms of the nation.

Much is to be gained by all. Ontario will reap increased revenues from mining suppliers and manufacturers; the people will gain from the jobs created and the future community stability engendered by it. At the same time, Inco and Falconbridge will find a new attitude towards them in the community and throughout Canada.

It is my firm conviction that the multinationals, if they truly desire to be good corporate citizens, can make a difference in Sudbury. But there is going to have to be more consultation amongst the parties involved if BILD is to be a success. To illustrate, I would give one example.

Not too long ago I had a conversation with a vice-president of one of the companies. During the discussion the point was made that the company was in the process of locating a plant in southern Ontario. When asked why, the reply came back that transportation rates dictated that location. Had there been consultation among the representatives of the company, the province and the community, as is outlined under the BILD program, I am sure we all could have found a way to locate that plant in Sudbury.

In any event, the way to ensure the success of our program in Sudbury is to make sure that both Inco and Falconbridge have their most senior executives on the resource machinery advisory board.

Mr. Martel: Jean-Jacques Blais would not give them a loan.

Mr. Gordon: There is only one problem and that is that the member for Sudbury East believes there is only one party that has any answers. I am sorry, but that just is not the case.

As well, it is absolutely vital that the two major unions are represented. The labour people have been very active and dedicated in fostering the future diversification of the Sudbury economy.

Well I remember the resolve and time spent by Dave Patterson of the Steelworkers and Jack Gignac of the Mine Mill union in the birth of 2001. What was particularly interesting about that was that both of these gentlemen, being presidents of labour unions, came out, along with the mayor and the regional chairman and a number of other people from the business community, and really did put their shoulders to the wheel. With that kind of participation and that kind of resolve on the part of all parties within the Sudbury basin, I think we can see some very real progress.

To recap: First, the BILD program requires close consultation and co-operation amongst the province, the region of Sudbury, Inco, Falconbridge and labour. Second, we have the will and the capacity to make it happen in Sudbury. We are northerners, and no matter what our nationality or language spoken, it is our resolve that Sudbury will and must begin to diversify. It is a community, and it is a dedicated and a committed community. We are prepared to work as a people with any group, business or government that shows a sincerity and a commitment to Sudbury and the north.

Given the fact that both the province and Inco have clearly stated that they have committed themselves, each in its own way, to the diversification of the Sudbury region, it should be crystal clear now why the BILD program has caught the imagination and raised the expectations of Sudbury people and northerners.

In conclusion, there are many challenges facing Ontario in the 1980s, but I believe the foundation for meeting those challenges and building an even better Ontario, an Ontario that is even more responsive to the needs, desires and aspirations of her people, can be found in the BILD program.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Boudria.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I hate to interrupt such an interesting conversation.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Mr. Boudria has the floor.

Mr. Boudria: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I was saying, I hate to interrupt

such an interesting conversation between my honourable colleagues here, however—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the Minister of Industry and Tourism please stop?

Mr. Boudria, please.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I am glad the minister is finally going to calm down and listen to what some of us have to say.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. Order. Would the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) please take his seat. Will the minister please be quiet.

Mr. Boudria, please.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I did not know that a Liberal speaker could get NDP and Conservative members into such a rowdy state, but I do realize it is an event which perhaps does arise from excitement in this House as I see now.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to start by congratulating you on your appointment as Speaker of this House, and also to extend the same congratulations to the Deputy Speaker and to the deputy chairman of committees. I would also like to congratulate all of the members who were elected to this assembly on the election of March 19.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the electors of the riding of Prescott-Russell who have chosen to make me their member in this assembly for that constituency. I feel very fortunate to represent such a great constituency as the riding of Prescott-Russell. It is a very large riding by urban standards. Perhaps some of my colleagues who have northern ridings would not think it so large; nevertheless it is one of the larger ridings that have urban components to it.

In the east of my riding lies the town of Hawkesbury, a very historical town in the history of the county of Prescott, and a town which is now largely industrialized.

Most of the rest of my constituency is of a rural nature, with the exception of the urban areas in the western end of the riding, that mainly being the township of Cumberland, an area which I was fortunate enough to represent at the municipal level before being elected to this House.

I was very fortunate to be at the municipal level under the great leadership of the former reeves, Mr. Henri Rocque and Mr. Wilfred Murray, both of whom gave me very good advice and helped me to eventually secure the seat for the riding of Prescott-Russell for the Liberal Party.

I would like to go through some of the history of our riding, Mr. Speaker. Some of the greatest explorers in the history of our country stopped in Prescott-Russell. I think of Samuel de Champlain, who of course navigated the Ottawa River. I think of the Dollard des Ormeaux battle, for instance, which occurred in my constituency near the town of Chute-a-Blondeau, near Hawkesbury. I think of famous people, like Senator Cairine Wilson, who was from Cumberland, Ontario, as we all know, and who was also of the same political affiliation as some of us are. Of course, Senator Cairine Wilson was the first woman senator of our country.

9:40 p.m.

Monsieur le président, c'est un honneur pour moi d'être député de Prescott-Russell. Comme vous le savez peut-être, Prescott-Russell a élu cette fois peut-être le plus jeune député qu'il y a jamais eu dans l'histoire de notre comté.

J'aimerais peut-être vous faire remarquer une citation de Racine, poète français du 17e siècle, qui dit entr'autres, "Aux âmes bien nées la valeur n'attend pas le nombre des années." Ce qui veut dire monsieur le président que l'âge d'une personne ne veut pas nécessairement dire l'habileté de faire quelque chose.

Monsieur le président dans l'histoire de la politique provinciale de Prescott-Russell il y a eu beaucoup de grands hommes venus de ce comté. Je compte parmi eux, Aurélien Bélanger, par le même nom d'une autre personne qui est venue par après. Aurélien Bélanger, monsieur le président, on se souviendra, a représenté le comté de Russell de 1923 a 1929 et a été député de Prescott de 1934 à 1948 dans cette assemblée. Grâce à ce grand homme, monsieur le président, on a réussi à abolir le projet de loi du siècle. On se souvient que c'est grâce, justement, a monsieur Aurélien Bélanger, si aujourd'hui les francophones ont réussi dans leurs modestes accomplissements.

Je trouve cependant, monsieur le président, certaines remarques que j'ai entendues dans cette chambre, dans les derniers jours, peut-être un peu tristes. Des remarques faites par le ministre des Affaires sociales et communautaires contre des gens que je considère mes ancêtres. Monsieur le président, les francophones sont en Ontario depuis près de deux cent ans. J'y suis et j'y reste. Et l'arrogance de telles paroles, comme je les ai entendues ne nous fera pas changer d'idée.

I also think of some of the comments I heard from other ministers in this House in my very short stay here of the last week. I remember last

week hearing the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Henderson) and some of the replies he had for us. I do not think they were very satisfactory to those of us who represent rural constituencies. I also think of the Minister of Housing (Mr. Bennett)—he is not here now, of course—who does not even think he should have the job of Minister of Housing. One really has to wonder what people like that are doing representing those people who expect results in the housing sector.

I am looking at my copy of the speech from the throne and I would just like to go over some of the items that are in it. I read, "Many opportunities for action lie in key federal areas of monetary and fiscal policy planning." There we see that the government is passing the buck on to the federal government for the problems of this province.

Why is it that other provincial jurisdictions have the same federal government we do, yet they have found a way to find results for some of the problems they had? I am thinking of the agricultural sector in Quebec where the government has found a mechanism to assist the farmers. Today to be a farmer in Quebec is a much better situation than to be a farmer in Ontario.

I read further, Mr. Speaker, "We are a strong and vigorous province." It is unfortunate that we do not have a strong and vigorous government, but yes, we do have a strong and vigorous population in this province.

I read even further: "The new industrial leadership and development program, an explicit program for economic expansion and growth will be the basic industrial development blueprint of this government." I will not comment too long on that, other than to say that my leader, of course, has told us what it involves—a net decrease in expenditures by the present government.

We read a little further—this is very interesting, Mr. Speaker—that: "The government will expand the training in business and industry initiatives of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and provide a major funding allocation for technical and technological equipment for the province's colleges of applied arts and technology. A community counselling program will be developed to tap the resources of our young people and guide them towards worthwhile and productive jobs."

That is interesting, when we see that those same community colleges are right now looking to abolish the position of community animators. Perhaps it is a coincidence that it is those same community animators who were there in Penetanguishene when we needed the French schools. Perhaps it is another coincidence that it was those same community animators who brought us the notorious Burton case in Hawkesbury, for instance. Now we see those community animators are going to lose their jobs.

I read even further, "Ontario is determined to ensure that its agricultural sector remains among the most modern in the world." That is interesting, Mr. Speaker. Not long after the speech from the throne was read in this House, we saw the government vote against having a debate in which we could probably have found help for the farmers of this province, as the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) indicated to us on that day.

I read further, "Ontario has endorsed the United Nations designation of 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons." That is true and, of course, that is very commendable except that we have just heard in the House today, I believe, from the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye) that a community college in Ottawa, Algonquin College, is going to reduce its health services branch so that disabled people now attending that facility will no longer be able to do so. That, Mr. Speaker, is all occurring in the International Year of Disabled Persons.

We, as a party, were not as fortunate as another party in this House in the last election. I say not as fortunate because they are not better, they are just more numerous than we are. What we lack in quantity, this caucus makes up in quality.

We have the quality leadership of the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Smith). We have quality representation from all parts of Ontario in this caucus. We have quality representation from these members. All of the members of this caucus are cabinet material and some day we will be called upon to form the government and we will have the quality of people to do so. There may be four years before we achieve that and in those four years we will be equipped to do the job even better.

I see the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Grossman) is looking, because he obviously is eyeing a higher position in his own party, but he may be the Leader of the Opposition at that time.

I would like to make a few more comments on the speech from the throne. I am very dismayed

to see that there is little or nothing to help the agricultural industry. Our farmers in Ontario are the most industrious group of workers we have. I hear, and a read again in this speech, that there is nothing to help the farmers with the rural-urban rate differential on hydro. There is nothing to assist our farmers with that. Other provinces have helped out with this.

In Quebec, for instance, there is no such thing as an rural-urban rate differential in energy. Everyone gets the same break. The farmers there can do a much better job because they have less burden and they sell their products at the same price as the farmers in Ontario, and they have a higher return on their investment.

9:50 p.m.

The government, again, is passing the buck for everything to the feds. It says it cannot do anything. Well, some of us in our caucus agree with the statement that they cannot do anything. The people in my riding have recognized that the Conservative Party cannot do anything, and look at what happened to the incumbent member for that constituency. In the next election we will do the same in other constituencies.

The government is saying to us that it cannot be specific in the speech from the throne. I heard at a press conference after the speech was read that the Premier (Mr. Davis) said it was just a general outline of what was going to happen, and not everything is in there.

That is unusual, because 18 months ago in a similar speech from the throne there were things announced that were very specific. It was announced there would be an agricultural college in Alfred, Ontario, for instance. That was very specific in the speech from the throne at that time. I am sure all the members will remember that. That was a half-hearted election promise, poorly planned, poorly organized, and now we see it is poorly delivered.

We listened eagerly the other day to the throne speech, looking to see what help was in it for a small business, and of course, there is very little in there. The only thing we saw in there was the buy-Canadian policy. That is very interesting, and it is also a Liberal policy. It was a bill, of course, that was introduced by our member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins). Our member at that time proposed in a small business bill something similar to what the government is going to do now. As critic on government services, I will do my utmost to ensure that this promise at least is not broken; that we, in fact, have a buy-Canadian policy, and that we do buy Canadian in this province.

Monsieur le président, en ce qui a trait à la francophonie, je suis déçu; déçu de voir ce discours du trone faire seulement mention très brève de l'amélioration des services aux Francophones. Je vais relire le texte pour que nous nous en souvenions bien comme il faut.

"Le gouvernement adoptera des politiques et des programmes spéciaux visant a améliorer la prestation des services en français. A faire connaître ces services et encourager la population francophone à les utiliser. C'est le ministere des Affaires intergouvernementales qui coordonnera ces efforts et des fonds spéciaux seront affectés pour faciliter la création du nouveau service en français au sein du gouvernement et dans toute la collectivité franco-ontarienne."

Mr. Speaker, that is all that we hear for the some 600,000 franco-Ontarians in this province. I have just read to you in the last 10 seconds everything that is going to be done for those 600,000 people. That is not much. As a matter of fact, we could say that is nothing. That is just nothing there.

Je trouve qu'il est déplorable, face aux résultats de l'élection, et je trouve que le gouvernement devrait prendre des initiatives des maintenant. Le président de l'ACFO qui est heureux d'avoir un gouvernement majoritaire en Ontario, nous a dit qu'il s'attendait qu'un gouvernement majoritaire serait en mesure de prendre des décisions difficiles, de prendre des décisions fortes face à la situation que nous voyons dans le moment en Ontario.

Comme il a dû être déçu lors du discours du trone, de voir les 10 secondes de texte que je viens de vous lire. Quelle déception de voir que le gouvernement n'a pas le courage et n'a pas la fortitude de reconnaître le droit des Francophones.

As a representative from the forgotten east—that is, close to the far east—I find it unusual there was nothing in the speech from the throne to discuss major issues affecting eastern Ontario. I fail to see why the capital of our country does not even have a decent highway linking it to Highway 401.

I want to tell the government there is life beyond Oshawa, that eastern Ontario goes beyond Kingston. There are more things out there. Perhaps they are unaware. They should be aware because they used to elect solid Tories in that area for many years. As a matter of fact, I think in the 1971 election our caucus only had one member east of Toronto. Now, of course, we have increased that number considerably.

I even see amongst some of the members on the opposite side some people who could easily cross and come and sit here because at one time they were nominated as Liberal candidates. Now, of course, they are not sitting here. That may change through the years when they see the inaction of the government to eastern Ontario.

There is no mention in the throne speech of Highway 416. There is no mention of Highway 138. There is no mention of such worthy projects as Le Rang du Fermier in Prescott-Russell, no mention of locating the high technology centre in Ottawa-Carleton. If I were a government member from the east, I think I would be awfully tempted to cross the floor right this minute.

When those Tories from eastern Ontario vote against our no-confidence motion, I urge them to think of the mandate and the responsibility given them by their electorate before they do so. I think those members should remember why they were elected. They were elected to represent those constituencies which will again get nothing from the present government. They should remember that because we will remind them at the next election.

I will be brief. I think I have been brief. I know some of the other members made very lengthy speeches on the throne speech, but I think in being brief sometimes it is possible to say all that has to be said and be to the point.

I urge the government to cease this arrogance, to become more sensitive to the needs of the population of this province, to accept the input and the constructive criticism, not only of their Progressive Conservative friends, not only of their corporate friends, but of all members of this Legislature and to admit that sometimes opposition members can come up with good and constructive ideas, not just to steal our private member's bills and make them legislation. Sometimes a private member's bill could be enacted.

I hope Ontario can be, once again, the great province it once was.

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, I want to begin this evening by saying that you are kind of a fresh breeze out of the north 40 blowing over the great manure pile yonder and may be good for the roses this spring. I would hope this kind of Americanization of the parliamentary process you have embarked upon will do us all some good. It may. There are lots of traditions in this House which do not necessarily have to be maintained. It may well be that certain changes may take place and I want to speak about that a bit later.

10 p.m.

Mr. Shymko: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege, I heard the term "manure pile" used to refer to the members opposite, and I find the term rather insulting.

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to see it has achieved its purpose.

Mr. Roy: Is that your exercise for the day?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That was the high point of the speech. So much for the high roads.

Mr. Breaugh: Do not get too familiar. I have noted that a number of opposition people have expressed some disappointment that the BILD program is long gone. But on this side of the House the members ought to remember that since about 1942, I believe, each time the Conservatives have run for office there has been some new program put together.

I recall in my experience this last time that the BILD program came into play and before that there was the Brampton charter. There has always been some very nice, neat package contrived by an expensive public relations firm to convince the people of Ontario that it really was not the old Tories who were running but the new Tories.

Here is a new package of promises which they will present to the people of Ontario in a very effective manner—and we should not deny that—that manages to convince the people of Ontario that the Tories have somehow renewed themselves, that the turtle has stepped out of its shell, that it is no longer what it once was and that as soon as they get elected they will do the great things they have promised.

The BILD program will take its place along with the Brampton charter and all of the others. Members on this side of the House should not be disappointed neither should they be surprised at various promises that were made, promises that we are now supposed to help the Premier (Mr. Davis) keep. They will be very quickly forgotten.

In this House in the speech from the throne, and indeed in the first afternoon the House was in session, the government immediately went to work. It talked to the workers of Ontario who had been kind of promised there would be some form of severance pay presented to them. The government in various forms—in the House by ministers responding to questions and outside with little press conferences—made it very clear that there is a promise that is going to be a long time coming, if ever.

Then the government went to work on the tenants of this province and it said, inside the House and outside the House, in its various forms and through its various ministers, that that one too may get rearranged. The word play is rather cute because there was a good deal said, from the Premier especially, that rent control will stay. What he did not talk about was the shape and form of the regulations that would accompany that control. So the tenants got it in the neck just about day two as well.

About the same time I thought I saw the Minister of Housing (Mr. Bennett) give it to those people who might be thinking about buying a house. In about one afternoon's work the Tories put their priorities back in shape and the government said very clearly where it was going. Never mind the BILD program. Never mind the promises. Never mind the media campaign. They are back at ruling the roost. The arrogance is going to flow and they are going to do what they want to do. They have their priorities quite clear.

The people of Ontario—at least the one in every four Ontario voters who voted for them—probably did understand that and the rest of the people in this province perhaps did not get a clear enough alternative put to them. Who knows what happened? Maybe, as I sensed, many of them are just fed up with the whole political process. So there should not be much surprise on this side. The promises that were made in the heat of the election campaign by the Premier and many other members opposite will go by the board.

One of the things which I find strange about the whole process is very simply this. I seemed to have heard a number of very prominent Tories talk a great deal about preserving the family. That was important.

Let me tell members how tough it is for an auto worker who does not have a job to preserve a family. Let me tell them how tough it is for someone who is trying to run a small business with the current interest rates. It is the kind of problem this government seems to feel is not its responsibility at all.

Let me tell the House how tough it is for those people who decided to stay on a farm, or take up farming, to deal with those interest rates. Many people in here seem to feel that because the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Henderson) is not too eloquent that he is not doing a good job. That is not really my mark for him at all. My mark is how well he does the job he is assigned to do in the cabinet. The answer to that, unfortunately, is not very well at all.

How well does the Minister of Housing do the job he is assigned in the cabinet? Does he care? Is he interested in young families who want to have a decent house for themselves for the foreseeable future? No, he does not. He seems to feel it is okay to have housing prices in Toronto and he seems to forget that there are places in Ontario outside of Toronto where the effect is the same.

He seems to assume that's okay. He seems to feel that when we ask questions about the escalating prices of housing, we are talking about the downtown, trendy, sand blasted townhouses. There aren't too many of those in Oshawa. There aren't very many at all in Ottawa or Sudbury or Thunder Bay or Sault Ste. Marie or any of the other places where we live. When we ask those questions, we are not particularly concerned about somebody who is turning over a $200,000 townhouse in downtown Toronto.

I am more concerned about someone who is trying to raise a family, trying to keep that family together, where man and wife both have to work to meet the interest rates, where virtually no one can purchase a house unless there is some buy down provision in the sales agreement. That's a serious thing and if he doesn't know about that, if his staff doesn't know about that, that's an even further admission that the minister himself and the people who we pay in this province to run the Ministry of Housing don't really know what's going on inside that field.

Because I come from a community which is dominated by one major industry, let me speak just a little bit about the auto industry itself. Without question, in the last couple of years it has been in a decline. It has had many serious problems. In my area alone we have lost probably somewhere around 2,000 permanent jobs. We hope that in the whole Oshawa vicinity we are more fortunate than other people in Oakville and in Windsor have been and the people who worked in all of the small parts plants that are all through Metropolitan Toronto and throughout the rest of Ontario.

We hope that there is, with General Motors being the prime mover and shaker in the industry, some stability in that area. The very best we are hoping for is that the layoffs will be temporary. The very best we are hoping for is that a year, perhaps two years from now, the market will recover, and that the kind of research and development which has never been done in this country, let alone in this

province, will come about.

The assurances are slight. For those people who worked at Chrysler who are on either a temporary or a permanent layoff—depending on what the labour relations board finally determines—for them, all of these other problems about trying to keep the house they are in, about rent control, about buying new houses, about interest rates, about mortgage rates, are not just inconveniences. They don't just mean that the family savings plan is going to suffer for the next year or so.

To them it means that one Saturday this spring, they are going to back a truck up to their place of abode, if it's a townhouse or one of the condominiums in our area; they are going to pack it up, try to get a quick clean and get out of there because they don't have much of an economic future in this province.

Most of them I think now have come to a realization that with the Tories back in a majority, there really isn't much of an opportunity for anyone to do anything to help them, because most of those people basically understand who the Tories work for and what their purpose in life really is and what their priorities are. If they don't, I predict by the time the Treasurer of Ontario (Mr. F. S. Miller) brings down his first budget in this session, they will have a very clear understanding.

I want to speak just briefly about things having to do with the Health ministry. The government of Ontario has gone through a phase in the last two or three years where the Ministry of Health has been discussed. It has been talked about, and a number of problems have been raised. A number of very serious areas have been discussed by a lot of people.

We have had, for the first time that I can remember, three strikes in one year in our hospital system.

The one in the fall was a strike by the interns and residents and we saw the government's attitude to them; quite a reasonable one in fact. Although there wasn't much of an open admission there was responsibility on the part of this government to do anything about it, things certainly did happen and a settlement occurred, a fair and reasonable settlement.

In February of this year our hospital workers were driven to the point of doing something which they really didn't want to do, a hospital strike, by an offer that was hardly acceptable to them. I think it's interesting to compare the government's reaction to those two strikes in the same institution.

Certainly, in both of those instances—if the government is worried; if it feels the prime focus of its concern ought to be the care of the patients in the hospital—we should have seen with our hospital workers the exact same amount of concern, the exact same amount of money put on the table as we saw for the interns and residents. We should have seen at work that backroom negotiating we saw in the fall for the interns and residents. We should have ssen the same people from the ministry out in the same hotel lobby in the same meeting room working to get a settlement. But we didn't.

10:10 p.m.

What we saw in that instance was the Attorney General of this province (Mr. McMurtry) decide that all of a sudden injunctions had to be sought, that the full force of law had to be brought against the hospital workers. We saw in those days an immense amount of activity on the part of the government, not attempting to get a settlement but attempting to punish the hospital workers.

Perhaps that would have been a clear choice of the priorities of the government of the day. Perhaps it is, I do not know. Perhaps to the government at that time it made some sense to try to use the legal process to break that strike. Much as I regret it, it seemed to have succeeded.

I will explain one thing I do not understand, though. Why is this happening now, almost three months after the strike has been ended, when we ought to be doing everything we can do as a government, as hospital workers, as hospital administrators, to resolve those open wounds that are left there from that strike; when the activities, the interests and the focus of the government should be on bringing peace back to our hospital situation; when we ought to be bringing together administrators, people from the unions and people from the ministries and saying, "Okay, a strike occurred"?

In every industrial strike there is always some rancour. One does not get out of those things pleasantly. Strikes by their very nature are not pleasant activities. No one I know, certainly not those walking the picket lines, likes a strike.

But afterwards, everyone who has been involved in a strike understands very clearly that there needs to be a period of reconciliation when you put down the swords, you sit around the bargaining table, and sometimes out in the hall, and you talk to people to try to make sure that the people who are working in our situations, in hospitals now, feel that they are not totally

abandoned—when the rancour of the strike is set aside, when the attempt is made to heal those wounds, when the attempt is made basically to put peace back into that situation, when you attempt to put some stability back in there.

It is beyond me why now, more than three months after the strike has ended, the Attorney General's office is still conducting what one of their own officials described as one of the largest investigations they have ever done into the activities of the hospital workers. Why is it that three months after that strike is over the ministry is still looking to do some kind of secret police activity on our hospital workers?

Is there any surprise that some of them were on the picket line? We know that. Is there any surprise that other members in the trade union movement, in opposition parties, and maybe even one or two on the government side over there, went out to talk to people on the picket line to express some support for hospital workers? That is not news; that was in the newspapers three months ago. Why do we now have a massive police investigation into the activities of the hospital workers? I can find no logical explanation for it.

I asked a question during the question period of today's session about that. Frankly, I did not get much of an answer; it was something about justice having to be seen to be done. I do not know how that relates to hospital workers who have lost their jobs, who have grievances going against them and who now have some kind of unstated police action going against them as well.

In our western free democracies, we are very careful about the activities of our police officers. We say that over here is a set of laws and over there, if you allege that someone broke those laws, you say so and then you attempt to do an investigation which leads to some laying of charges and some judicial process.

We do not normally have police officers going around doing this kind of surveillance after the fact. We do not normally have the Ontario Provincial Police conducting an investigation over a three- or four-month period for no apparent purpose. They do that in other places. The KGB is quite good at that. I am told the CIA is quite good at that. But I do not think of my Ontario Provincial police officer as someone who does that. That does not strike me to be a clear role for them to play.

When they came to Oshawa and asked the local newspaper reporters for copies of pictures that had appeared in the Oshawa Times, they did not have much of a reason as to why they were there. It got me to thinking: why exactly did we send police officers from the Whitby detachment, and this morning from the downtown Toronto detachment, out to Oshawa to get copies of pictures they already have? Is that all that our police officers have to do? No, I am afraid not. I am afraid that our police forces are a little undermanned in most communities in this province.

I thought our priorities were such that the financial arrangements there were pretty stretched. I thought Ontario was having difficulty coming up with two-man patrol cars in remote areas. The argument basically was not that it was not a desirable idea, but very simply that they financially could not afford to do that. Yet they can afford to conduct a four-month investigation into this kind of stuff?

Just this afternoon in the Toronto Star, to kind of encapsulate one day's comments on problems that police officers might have, I read that the fraudulent use of credit cards is up somewhere over 30 per cent. That may be an inconvenience to Eaton's or Simpsons or the Bay—and they are all practically the same thing now—because they can roll that on into the price. They are big enough to absorb some of that loss. But to a smaller merchant that is disaster time, because he or she has to absorb that loss.

Would it not be a sensible thing to have our police working in that area? If the government has such great concern for small business, such great concern for the family and such great concern for law and order, why does it not go and do something about that?

Again, on the same front page, I read—and this is supposedly the responsibility of the same minister—that some 75 hotels here in Toronto cannot meet the various fire standards that are around. Why not? Where are these hotels? How do I know, if I check into one tonight, which ones meet the safety standards and which ones do not? Why is it that the Inn on the Park fire was supposedly under the jurisdiction not of the Ontario fire marshal and not of the local fire department, but of the Ontario Liquor Licence Board? How does that happen?

How is it that since 1975 there has been a draft consolidation of the fire acts which, if enacted, would have clarified all this maze of regulations, made our hotels safer, streamlined the process, done the investigation and informed the public? Where has that one been for five years? On many occasions one finds here that good ideas

are thought up, brought down to Queen's Park, put on a shelf somewhere and never reappear again.

The hospital workers had the same kind of major investigation, because in 1967 when the Hospital Labour Disputes Arbitration Act came into play, there was recognition on the part of the government that more than 90 per cent of the people included under that act were not really in essential services. Until that time, they certainly had not been considered to be in essential services. So they set out the usual routine for a major committee to do a study on that. In 1974, that committee reported. It said there really had to be a rather massive streamlining of that system to decide what was an essential service in a hospital, what the different roles are that should be played and what kind of compensation should be offered to different people in the hospital work place. That one has gone nowhere either.

Just this week the Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell) announced he has his priorities all lined up. His major concern is not the hospital workers, but the physicians. I think most of us on this side will recognize that the physicians in this province, by and large, are a decent group of people and deserve to get a decent buck. I am not going to argue against anybody getting a salary increase, but the priorities are wrong. Surely the priorities are wrong when a government can offer to the highest paid person working in a hospital that kind of money—14.75 per cent or something like $10,000 to $12,000—while at the other end of the scale for the ordinary hospital worker all they have really got to offer is a little more police surveillance for an activity that occurred more than three months ago.

I ask today again is that the benchmark? Is that the standard by which all salary contracts are going to be judged this year? I have listened to various Treasurers establish those benchmarks. First it was seven per cent, then nine per cent and then less than 10 or maybe 11. For the highest income group in the province the minister has set the benchmark. Whether he wants to call it that or not, whether he is pleased with that or not, he has made that first settlement; he has made that benchmark. He made it at 14.75 per cent, but he is going to have a very difficult time talking to the remainder of the people in the employ of the civil service in Ontario or people out there in private industry. They are going to say, "If the highest income group deserves that kind of increase, then surely the lowest income group just by the nature of fairness deserves a similar amount of money." All those in between have a rightful claim to come pretty close to that mark as well.

That might be a problem for this government a little later on, because I sense a lot of people out there in their homes with their mortgages coming up for renewal, with money borrowed from a bank or a credit union at 16, 17 or 18 per cent, are going to be saying: "I need a little catch-up on this too. I need to have my wages reflect the cost of inflation as it comes into my house. Though my income may not be in the $60,000 to $70,000 bracket, as a lot of physicians have, I pay the same kind of interest rates as they do and the cost of housing for me is the same as it is for them."

10:20 p.m.

If they live in rental accommodation, they will be taking a look at the kind of weaseling around we have seen from the government already on precisely what kind of rent controls they are talking about. When they go to negotiate this time, in this round of negotiations, they are going to be saying just precisely that. The government has set a benchmark.

We are all looking at costs in many fields that are around 14, 15 and 16 per cent over what they were last year. Many of them are going to say out of fairness, "That is what I want." The government of Ontario in one of its first acts in a new parliament made that benchmark.

I want to conclude this evening by offering a bit of discussion about this place, wonderful old institution that it is. I began by saying, Mr. Speaker, that I recognize you are going to make some changes here. I want to preface my remarks by saying that all through the minority government a great many changes took place in the rules, the procedure and the way things happened around here. I would make a plea to both sides of the House that not all of that work go out the window just because there is a new majority government in place.

For many of us who worked on the procedural affairs committee or who worked in this House debating the reports of that committee, I think we found something in the course of those five years. It was not just a way to make a minority government work, not just a way to do some things in a little different way, but I think we were beginning to carve out something which has been a problem on both sides of the House for a long time.

The ancient parliamentary tradition really is that the government consists of those people

who occupy the front benches. The people who form the cabinet with the Premier run the show. For all of those people who have been mentioned by a number of speakers as being here for the first time, one of the saddest lessons to learn is what the role is of a backbencher in a majority. It is sad to say it often turns out to be that the role is a pretty simple one. He stands up when he is told to stand up and says "yes" when he is told to say "yes" and "no" when he is told to say "no." The rest of the time he sits down and shuts up. That is not too complicated a life to lead, but after a while the thrill of standing with the government gets a little bit hazy.

Many of us, some of whom have been here during majorities and some of whom have never seen a majority at work, having spent all of their parliamentary careers in a minority situation, followed the lines laid down by the Camp commission, the Morrow report and the procedural affairs committee report, out of all of which comes a common line, namely, that there is some talent in here other than those people who are named to the cabinet.

I heard some lighthearted remarks about the brilliance or near-brilliance or the almost brilliance or the tarnished brilliance of some of those people who occupy cabinet positions now. It is true, and government members will see it from that side every bit as clearly as we will see it from this side. If there is somebody sitting in the back benches over there who looks down at the man who made Brylcreem famous and says, "I really couldn't do the job as well as that person is doing the job," he should get out of here now because he should not be around here.

I know there will be people in all parties who have a contribution to make to the workings of this government. Whether one is a government member or not, front bench or back bench on either side of the House, there are things one can do, which in a municipal setting one would do and which in a school board setting one would do. The great tragedy here is that one often does not get a chance to do very much unless one makes it to the cabinet.

This House is not the size of the federal House. It is not the size of the House of Commons at Westminster. Most of the members here are here almost every day. Most of the members are here anxious to make some change that will help the constituents they serve back home.

I would recommend for new members' reading the reports of Camp and Morrow and the procedural affairs committee where we tried to lay out a role for the individual member, for the private member, to play. We talked about a lot of things. We talked about committee structure and we talked about the way we would go about those things. Through that I think members will find a consensus. It is my hope that all of that work which has gone on for almost a decade now will not be lost all of a sudden.

On both sides of the House, on the government side and on the opposition side, I think members will find in all of that discussion, in all of those reports, in all those debates, that there is something which should not be lost, and that is a better form of government for the people of Ontario.

In many respects we went through what I guess is pretty standard form now—discussions about how relevant anything is in here. If new members look around tonight, they will see what they had better get used to because on Tuesday and Thursday nights there is not always a jammed gallery to be seen. As a matter of fact, in this Parliament since I have been here I think I can recall about a dozen times when the galleries were full of interested citizens. The remainder of the time members will find one or two people in here and will see up there in the press gallery tonight what they will see most nights here, except on some rare occasions during the year when some great event will be taking place.

I recall the first evening I saw Darcy McKeough present a budget. I had never before seen drama of that high a form in the political forum. That great, ultra right-wing Tory, with the gallery full of adoring fans and the television cameras on, gave a really good show. But that will happen maybe once a year. Most of the time nobody will care what is said. Hansard will record it and its very faithful staff will usually get it right, but there will not be a lot of attention paid to the members.

One of the things we talked about in the last session was the need to make this Parliament worth watching, like the federal House, which has an electronic Hansard which provides something to give constituents some idea of who their member is and what he is doing and saying at Queen's Park. That may dictate that the procedures of the House be such that the Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell) will not be putting his feet up on his desk in the late evening hours, because he would be very media conscious and afraid that somebody might catch him doing that. The people will not sleep while someone is making his maiden speech on the throne speech. There

will not be just a handful of members from one's own caucus there; the House will be in session as it ought to be.

We also talked a great deal about committees, who should chair committees and what committees should be able to do so that they could have a little bit of scope. Many of us came from someplace else in politics, from municipal council, for example, where each and every person who is part of that body has some job to do and gets a chance to participate.

Although new members do not run the whole show, they really do get a chance to change some things for the people they represent. In all of the recommendations which Camp and Morrow made and in those the procedural affairs committee made, that element is there, namely, that every person who gets elected to this House should have the opportunity to make some changes, to do some things for the people back home—that is the traditional role—and to participate in the process and not just be an observer or a critic, but actually change the nature and the structure of government in Ontario.

I think that is important, and I sense in the decade of debate which has ensued since Dalton Camp and his group first approached the problem that we came to some conclusions. They were not always perfect, and I do not think anybody who worked on the committees which investigated those reports suggests for a moment that ultimate solutions are there. But through it all is that key role of the ordinary member. That is important and the reason it is important is not that it gives a member something useful to do, but simply that there is something in that for the government.

If the government of Ontario works better, and I believe it would if we readjusted our committee systems a bit here, I have no illusions about who will get the credit for that. It will be those people who are traditionally referred to as the government of Ontario, that is, the cabinet. For the opposition members, there ought to be a clearly defined role of what they are to do here. It should not always be that of sitting in the estimates committee for 20 hours when nobody is listening or paying much attention. There one gets a chance to say whatever one wants to say, but it will not change anything very much.

I must say, as someone who has been here for a little while and has seen this House change in small ways, facing a Tory majority is going to take a little getting used to. I do not have any illusions about the political process. You win some and you lose some. I have done both, and I really would rather win, but I have to accept at the end that that is precisely what elections are all about. What is important for all of us to remember is the rather sad fact that two things happen.

One thing is that a government can get this size of a majority in this province with only one out of every four people eligible to vote voting for it. That should speak to all of us here. The political process is a long way from being perfect.

The second thing is of lesser concern to me, I suppose. It is that the current Premier in all of the elections he has won and some which he almost won has one steady line. He has managed to drive down consistently the number of people who vote in an election. That, I think, is a sad thing from the Premier's point of view. It may be even sadder for everybody else who sat around 33 March 19 and said, "I just don't have the time to go and vote. I can't be bothered to go and vote."

For the next four or five years I think it will be important for all members in all parties on all sides of this House to see what each one of us can do in our respective roles as government and opposition members to turn that around. That indeed is a formidable challenge.

On motion by Hon. Mr. McCague, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 10:31 p.m.

CONTENTS

Tuesday, April 28, 1981

Throne speech debate

Mr. McClellan. 165
Mr. Gordon. 176
Mr. Boudria. 178
Mr. Breaugh. 182
Adjournment. 188

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

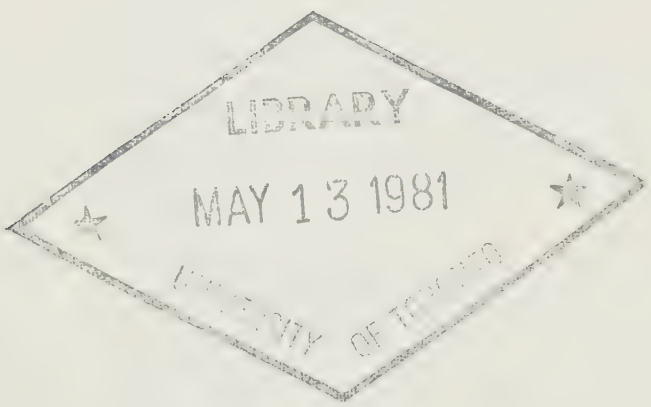
Boudria, D (Prescott-Russell L)
Brandt, A. S. (Sarnia PC)
Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
Cousens, D.; Acting Speaker (York Centre PC)
Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
Gordon, J. K. (Sudbury PC)
Gregory, Hon. M. E. C.; Minister without Portfolio (Mississauga East PC)
Grossman, Hon. L. S.; Minister of Industry and Tourism (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
Haggerty, R. (Erie L)
Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)
Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
Roy, A. J. (Ottawa East L)
Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea PC)
Timbrell, Hon. D. R.; Minister of Health (Don Mills PC)
Turner, Hon. J. M.; Speaker (Peterborough PC)

Ontario

No. 7

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



First Session, Thirty-Second Parliament
Thursday, April 30, 1981
Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

Hansard subscription price is $15.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Central Purchasing Service, Print Procurement Section, Ministry of Government Services, 8th Floor, Ferguson Block, Parliament Buildings, Toronto M7A 1N3. Phone (416) 965-2238.

Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Thursday, April 30, 1981

The House met at 2:01 p.m.

Prayers.

INTEREST RATES

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege. In our efforts to open the eyes of the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Henderson) to the problems facing farmers with high interest rates and low prices for their products, the minister stood in his place and challenged me to name five farmers who had gone bankrupt, implying that I was misleading the House.

I will give him the names of five farmers, starting with Mr. Lou Popencourt of Lambton county. The significance of this name is that this man comes from Lambton county. There are two other farmers I could name, but I will not, because I think the minister has the responsibility to see what is going on within his own riding.

There is Mr. Keith Small of Huron, the Secords of Dufferin, Mr. Vos of Wellington, Mr. Bill Hepburn of Grey, Mr. Glen Smith of Lynden and Mr. Don Morrison of Lucknow. There is also Mr. Sander Deutsch of Hamilton-Wentworth; he did not go bankrupt but he had to liquidate all his assets. There is Mr. Arnold Anderson of Shelburne, whose farm has been up for sale for six months because he is not able to hold on.

I could go on and on, and I have several letters here I am getting from farmers who wish to remain anonymous. What is the minister going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, you will remember I suggested to the honourable member that he send me the names, in a confidential way, of anybody who has had troubles.

I will be very happy to drive my own personal car from Lambton to Toronto if the member will find Mr. Popencourt for me and bring him in here. I will be very honoured, very glad, if he will find Mr. Popencourt in Lambton. I will consider it an honour, and I will be glad to escort him in here. I give the member that challenge.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

PROVINCIAL RAIL POLICY

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity today to table the Ontario Task Force on Provincial Rail Policy's final report, which was released earlier this week by its chairman, the member for St. David (Mrs. Scrivener), and copies of which were made available to each member via the legislative post office on Tuesday.

The task force, as members will recall, was created last year to examine the existing state of rail transport in Ontario and the potential for rail as a key component of this province's future transportation requirements. The report outlines proposals and makes recommendations in this critical area of public policy, an area that demands both federal and Ontario government participation.

Task force members were careful to take into consideration such concerns as economic factors, the urgency to conserve energy supplies, and the need to maintain and expand the quality of passenger and freight services throughout Ontario.

While I have had only a few days to study and look at this entire report, I am generally familiar with the broad policy areas explored in it, having examined the interim report published last November. I want to add that the province has maintained a continuing involvement in rail activities over many years, both in direct involvement with the railway industry itself through Ontario Northland and as the representative of the Ontario people before the Canadian Transport Commission at rail discontinuance and abandonment hearings.

The task force was created for the purpose of advising this government on how rail can serve this province's best interests in the future. With this in mind, my ministry recently established a rail office to better focus these efforts while providing a mechanism to analyse the task force recommendations and eventually to prepare clear-cut policy options for cabinet consideration.

Senior ministry staff of course have been in close consultation with task force members and

will take part in the review of the final report. To this end, I will make an announcement about government direction on rail policy once the report has been thoroughly analysed. Let me also add that the Ontario government's commitment to act on rail matters is critically linked to the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program, this government's basic industrial development blueprint for the next decade.

I am satisfied that the report of the Task Force on Provincial Rail Policy will provide us with the basic tools that will permit us to determine how rail transport can be improved and expanded to meet all current and foreseeable rail needs in Ontario.

Before I close, I want to thank the task force members for the time and effort put into the production of this report. There are four provincial deputy ministers—Mr. Harold Gilbert of my ministry, Mr. Arthur Herridge of the Ministry of Northern Affairs, Mr. John Thatcher of the Ministry of Government Services and Mr. L. R. "Red" Wilson of the Ministry of Industry and Tourism—and four members at large: Dr. Allan Blair, Dr. Herbert Smith, Dr. Richard Soberman and Dr. Tuzo Wilson.

I also want to express the appreciation of myself and my colleagues to the chairman of the task force, the member for St. David, and her able assistant, Denis Callan.

Finally, I understand the chairman of the task force will be detailing the report later today during the throne speech debate.

INDO-CHINESE REFUGEE SETTLEMENT:

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, on a number of occasions in the past, I have brought this House up to date on my ministry's efforts to help Indo-Chinese refugees—the "boat people"—settle here in Ontario. Today, I want to tell honourable members about our plans for this settlement program in the fiscal year that has just begun.

As members know, the responsibility for the admission and initial settlement services of all immigrants, including refugees, rests with the government of Canada. However, as a complement to federal initiatives, my ministry provides some supplementary services. Needless to say, the ministries of Community and Social Services, Education, Health, Housing and Labour all provide their services, which are open to all residents of Ontario.

2:10 p.m.

The boat people started to arrive in Canada in late 1978. Recognizing that these refugees would have distinctive needs, my ministry set up an Indo-Chinese refugee settlement unit to work with sponsors and voluntary groups across the province and provide some services directly.

Let me emphasize that it was the provincial government's view at that time that essential, short-term services would best be provided by community groups rather than by an expanded provincial bureaucracy. Consequently, we arranged with voluntary agencies to form an active partnership in this resettlement program, and we committed funds to help them get the job done.

I believe that the rich experience of the last two years speaks eloquently to the generosity of the people of Ontario and to the wisdom of the provincial government's policy.

The government of Canada decided to admit 60,000 Indo-Chinese refugees to this country. So far, 24,000 have chosen to settle here in Ontario. It is our experience that roughly one half of all immigrants, including refugees, who are admitted to Canada choose to settle here in Ontario; so we anticipate that a final 7,000 Indo-Chinese refugees will enter Ontario this year.

During the last two fiscal years, my ministry has transferred $1,045,000 to about 70 local agencies and groups on a short-term basis to help with the resettlement of Indo-Chinese refugees. Yet while much of the work has already been done, some still remains. Therefore, I am pleased to announce today that, to help local voluntary agencies provide their outstanding service, my ministry will be transferring $500,000 to them in the fiscal year that has just begun. This allocation will bring our total grants to local groups for Indo-Chinese refugee resettlement to more than $1.5 million since 1979.

In closing, let me, as lead minister responsible for Indo-Chinese refugee resettlement, pay tribute to the outstanding work that has been done in this area by my staff and by all the ministries of the government of Ontario. Above all, let me pay tribute once again to the thousands of individuals and organizations for their caring and commitment in this cause. They have done a magnificent job.

This Indo-Chinese refugee settlement in Ontario and the most recent arrivals will make an important contribution to our multicultural society, and assisting them on their arrival will stand as a credit to the people of this province for generations to come.

ORAL QUESTIONS

ASTRA/RE-MOR

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. As you know, Mr. Speaker, to this point the minister has not given his undertaking to send the Astra Trust/Re-Mor Investment Management Corporation matter back to the standing committee on administration of justice so that committee might continue its work.

Today a publication entitled Bimonthly Reports has come out. I sent the minister a copy a few moments ago. This publication makes very serious allegations about the role of the Ontario Securities Commission in the Astra Trust/Re-Mor matter. Let me read a few sentences. The title reads:

"After approving illegal payments and backing off from a receivership application, the Ontario Securities Commission laid Astra charges in secret. The commission owes an explanation."

It goes on to say that the OSC, Canada's leading business regulator, played a crucial role in the Astra Trust affair and that it has a record of consistent failure. I am quoting: "The OSC failed to lay criminal charges until it was too late, gave authorization for illegal payments, approved holding off a key receivership application, approved or condoned holding off proceeding with Securities Act charges, held off freezing the funds of the key investment company."

In view of these serious allegations, all of which appear to be backed up in this document, and given the fact that there are contradictions between the testimony of some OSC witnesses before the justice committee and what is reported in this document, will the minister not agree the justice committee must forthwith resume its hearings or, failing that, the government must appoint a royal commission to conduct a judicial inquiry into the whole matter of Astra and Re-Mor and related companies, and particularly the handling by all provincial regulators, ministry and the OSC alike, that might have been concerned with it?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the Leader of the Opposition has sent me a copy of a lengthy report. I have not had much of an opportunity to read it in the short time since he provided it to me, but I will say that the matter he has now raised was the subject of the referral made last Monday by the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley). Along with 20 other members, he referred the annual report of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations to the standing committee on justice.

Presumably when that committee is struck—and it has not yet been struck—and when the membership is established and the organizational meeting is held, I suspect one of the first things it will consider will be that question. So that matter will come up and, if the matter is raised in the next two weeks, I assume it will be the member's responsibility to raise those very questions before the committee.

There is a bit of difference today which perhaps did not exist at the time when the committee was entertaining discussions on Re-Mor and other matters. Today there are criminal charges that have been laid, and certain civil proceedings are before the courts. Not only do we now have a complete set of criminal charges before the courts—a good number of individuals are facing very serious criminal charges—but also we have the civil suits well in progress and it is hoped we will have the test cases coming on before long.

But, given that, there is a bit of a difference from what it was in the days when the committee was considering this matter without benefit of any of the actions having been launched. I assume that the Leader of the Opposition will take the responsibility to proceed with the matter and bring these matters to the attention of the committee at the appropriate time.

With respect to Ontario Securities Commission charges that may exist, the OSC would naturally lay charges just to preserve the limitation period of a year they are obliged to be involved with. That will probably come out in the near future.

Mr. Smith: I will put two parts in a supplementary, with your permission, Mr. Speaker.

First, I want the minister to consider one particular allegation that is in this report. The minister is aware that when C and M Financial Consultants was ordered wound down by the courts in February 1979, Carlo Montemurro was required to supply his personal guarantee that C and M investors would be protected and to pledge his share of the family grocery business for that purpose. The OSC apparently was party to the deal.

Will the minister please explain how it was that, during the time the OSC apparently was dragging its feet on the Re-Mor investigation in the spring of 1980, Mr. Montemurro, it would seem, managed to sell his interest in the family business, and the $1.47 million, representing the

bulk of that interest, was then transferred to a Swiss bank account? There is a serious question about the way the OSC has handled this.

As the second part of my admittedly lengthy supplementary, in these exceptional circumstances will the minister recognize that it matters not that there might be some cases before the courts—those cases were largely there before the justice committee started its work—and will he not admit it is the action of the regulatory authorities, both within the ministry and the OSC, that must be examined by either the justice committee or by a royal commission? It is not the question of criminalities, fraud or any civil suit, but the action of our own regulators in Ontario that must be examined.

The work of that committee is unfinished. Will the minister accept that the committee will now undertake that work again, and will he co-operate by providing all the documents that are necessary?

Hon. Mr. Walker: First, with respect to the second question, I am not about to tell the committee what it is going to do. The committee has to make that decision itself. The member's party will be duly represented, along with the other two parties in this House. I rather anticipate that at that time they will raise questions that will be answered only by the committee. They are not going to take direction from me. I would not expect it and neither would he expect it.

The other matter the member spoke about was the question that the OSC is apparently part of some deal. Who is saying they are part of any deal? The member says "apparently." He reads some kind of issue sheet that says the OSC is apparently part of some deal. That is not a very strong allegation. It seems to me, if an allegation is to be made, that whoever wrote that article—and perhaps the member is parroting the writer's comments—should make the allegations and then we would have something to check on. But I am sorry, it is not enough to say they were apparently part of some deal.

2:20 p.m.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister's point. I said "apparently" because I did not necessarily want to say that everything stated by this person is correct. But, just to clarify that, he did not say "apparently;" I said "apparently."

Hon. Mr. Walker: Incidentally, who is the person? I think that kind of information should be brought to the attention of the committee; indeed, it should be brought to the attention of the Ontario Securities Commission and our ministry. I will be pleased to receive a little more information about that. If the Leader of the Opposition is parroting some of those comments and adopting them as his own, I will be glad to receive them.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a supplementary of the minister: In view of the cutoff of the work of the committee on Re-Mor and Astra by the election called by the Premier (Mr. Davis), in view of the majority situation that now exists on that justice committee whereby the only matters that will be discussed and pursued in that committee will be those approved by the Conservative Party and the government, and in view of the cloud that hangs over the government's head on this matter, why will the minister not officially request that committee to pursue all aspects of the Re-Mor and Astra investigation?

Hon. Mr. Walker: First of all, Mr. Speaker, the committee is done with the Re-Mor matter. It concluded that on the Thursday night; so I suspect that is no longer a consideration on the member's part.

Second, the entire Astra and Re-Mor matters are being considered by criminal courts at this very moment. I think that is something the member should take into account. Is he trying to second-guess the courts? Would the member like to have it on his head that he prejudiced the trial by something he did? I do not think he would want to do that, and I do not think the rest of us would either.

Mr. Bradley: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: It is reported in Bimonthly Reports that all traces of the Ontario Securities Commission public file on Astra Trust Company have disappeared from the commission's filing room. Will the minister please inform us how it is that this public file has disappeared?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I think it has been locked in the boardroom of the OSC. I think they found there was not enough space in the room they had; so they moved it into another room. Would the member like the number of the room?

ONTARIO FIRE CODE

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I will return to this matter later, but I want to refer my second question, on another matter, to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. This matter has to do with the Ontario fire code.

The minister will be aware that we have had draft proposals for changes in the Ontario fire code for well over two years now, I believe for two and a half years precisely. During that time we have had a number of tragic hotel fires resulting in extensive property damage and, more important, in significant loss of life.

Will the new Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations tell us how much longer we are going to have to wait and how many more fires might occur in that time before we have a legislative proposal before us for a new Ontario fire code, especially since there is no mention of such at all in the throne speech?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I rather resent that the Leader of the Opposition draws any connection between the fire about which there is an inquest going on now and the Ontario fire code. To my knowledge, no one has made any allegations that anything lacking in the present existing code has some connection with that particular fire. I think the Leader of the Opposition would be well disposed not to comment further in that area. It should be left a subject of the inquest.

With respect to the Ontario fire code, it requires certain amendments to the Fire Marshals Act. Those amendments were before this Legislature last fall. They were to be debated in the last week of this Legislature, and in that last week the minister responsible took ill. He was not here and the matter died on the Order Paper. I am told that this matter, under the responsibility of the Solicitor General (Mr. McMurtry), will be brought back in the form of Fire Marshals Act amendments, and these amendments are anticipated in the next few weeks, certainly this spring. With those amendments, a new fire code will be able to be brought in.

I want to say something about the new fire code. That fire code is an extremely extensive revision. The code was first published by this government in 1979, and since that time 300 briefs have been received. The task force, made up of the fire marshal, representing the Solicitor General, and people from the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, has been meeting without end, incessantly, for the last two years, on these questions, attempting to balance off all the interests. We now feel the interests are basically balanced, and we feel the code is in good form to be brought forward. The amendments will be brought forward almost any day now.

Mr. Smith: If I might respond to the comment that the fire code might be unrelated to the recent fires, I should just point out to the honourable minister that the fire chief of North York, Mr. Gibson, in giving a list of recommendations that might have been of importance to the Inn on the Park fire, has said that the enactment of an Ontario fire code has been promised but never passed.

Hon. Mr. Davis: What else did he say?

Mr. Smith: What else did he say, the Premier would like to know? He went through a lot of things here. He says that early detection of the fire did not occur, that early reporting did not occur. The Premier will find in many instances, if he has read further, that the split between the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario as the examining agent—

Hon. Mr. Davis: Did the fire chief not say anything else, that he did not think it would make any difference?

Mr. Smith: He may have, but it is not here.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Leader of the Opposition have a question?

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary actually pertains directly to what the Premier just said. Given that in Hamilton-Wentworth we had about seven deaths in the Wentworth Arms fire, and that Mr. Deans and I at the time raised questions pointing out that it was absurb that there was a split between the liquor board examining those hotels that sell liquor and the fire marshal examining those that do not sell liquor—I think those were the words of Mr. Deans—and since this has been raised again in this fire, will the minister tell us whether, finally, all responsibility for fire safety in hotels will be under one minister, namely the Solicitor General, so we will not have liquor board inspectors trying to be fire inspectors at the same time?

Hon. Mr. Walker: I could say that the member's wish has been granted immediately. The fact is that they are now under the Solicitor General, and those people are simply people under the Liquor Licence Act. In fact, those inspectors are the agents of the Solicitor General for the purpose of inspecting the hotels for these particular matters.

I would say, too, with respect to the fire code, it is no easy task to blend together all the acts. As a matter of fact, there are 11 ministries with some 29 acts of this Legislature involved with the fire code, Mr. Speaker, and I know you would appreciate, if the Leader of the Opposi-

tion would not, that is a very complex matter and that is exactly what Fire Chief Gibson said in his comments in the newspaper.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: I do not think this issue is that complex. Lives have been lost in hotel fires in this province, and we want to know whether the ministry now has undertaken to learn from the lessons of the Inn on the Park fire. Specifically, what instructions are now going out to ensure that staff in hotels across the province are carrying out the drills, are making the arrangements and are prepared in the event of future hotel fires to avoid the mistakes that appear to have taken place at the Inn on the Park?

Hon. Mr. Walker: I am so interested that the leader of the New Democratic Party would choose to presume and prejudge the comments of the inquest. Frankly, we are not so smug that we are going to sit around here and prejudge those; we will await the comments of the inquest. When the inquest makes recommendations, then we will see about adherence to the recommendations it makes. That has been the experience of our government.

Mr. Breaugh: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: It was reported in the Toronto media that some 75 hotels in Metropolitan Toronto are in violation of existing regulations, that the current round of inspections has revealed there are that many violations now in 75 hotels. Will the minister publish the names of those hotels which do not conform with existing fire regulations?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I would like to read the report. In any case, that is a matter that more properly should be asked of the Solicitor General; that particular aspect would be under his responsibility. The Solicitor General will be back after he has fought the battle of Canada on the matter of the constitution. He is now in Ottawa. I am not aware of the story about which the honourable member made reference.

2:30 p.m.

RENT CONTROL

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I have a new question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations about the government's future plans for rent review. Are tenants in apartments renting for more than $400 a month to get continued protection under rent review, as the Premier promised during the course of the election campaign, or are they to lose rent review protection on the grounds that they are living in luxury accommodation, as the minister has been indicating since the election?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I think I made a very clear statement on this matter last Thursday. I reiterated that for the benefit of the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations yesterday. The short of it is, rent control is going to continue in this province. There just is no question about that.

Mr. Cassidy: In view of the fact that the minimum accommodation needed by a family with two or three children is a three-bedroom apartment, and since 26 per cent of the three-bedroom apartments in London are costing more than $400 a month, 48 per cent of those in Ottawa cost more than $400 a month and 60 per cent of those in Windsor and Thunder Bay are costing more than $400 a month, what does the minister mean when he says rent control is going to be maintained but then indicates that it is going to be taken away on apartments renting for more than $400?

Hon. Mr. Walker: I did not indicate that it was going to be taken away on apartments costing more than $400. I do not know where the member got that idea.

Mr. Cassidy: On Friday, April 24, the minister is quoted in the Toronto Star as saying, quite directly, "It might be possible to remove controls on luxury apartments that rent for $400 to $500 a month in smaller communities and those that rent in the $600- to $800-a-month range in Metro."

Is the minister saying that the people in my riding who have to pay more than $400 a month to house their families in apartments are living in luxury accommodation and therefore will lose rent control protection, or will he simply guarantee that families will continue to have rent control protection in this province for the future? That is the assurance we are looking for.

Hon. Mr. Walker: That is the assurance I have given. How much more assurance does the member want? The assurance is that there is going to be rent control in this province.

Mr. Ruprecht: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Is the minister committed to maintaining a rent control system of six per cent?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I would have to say that is a very difficult question to answer, because I have on record the comments of the Liberal housing critic, made on or about March 16, 1981, in which case he said the Liberals might want to consider an increase in the ceiling

on rent increases allowed without a hearing before the Residential Tenancy Commission, according to—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Do you have a point of privilege, Mr. Epp?

Mr. Epp: Yes, Mr. Speaker. The minister could do a lot of justice to his own credibility and to the members of the Legislature by reading the whole statement rather than taking a part out of context. In keeping with that, he could also read the comments of his own colleague the Minister of Labour (Mr. Elgie), who spoke at the same meeting and advocated an increase from six per cent.

Mr. Speaker: Final supplementary; Mr. Philip:

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond to the point of order. I just do not know what the honourable member from Waterloo North is saying. I was not quoting him; I was quoting the housing critic of the Liberal Party. But I have here a copy of what he has said too, come to think of it.

I wonder if it would embarrass you, Mr. Speaker, if I were to read the comments that the honourable member for Waterloo—

Mr. Speaker: It may add some clarification.

Hon. Mr. Walker: I certainly was not talking about him, but I am prepared to read his comments into the record. I was talking about the member for Frontenac-Addington (Mr. McEwen) who, as the housing critic, made those comments.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: The minister has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Walker: I am still responding to the original point of privilege.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Only one point of privilege at a time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The minister has the floor to reply to the point of privilege.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Let me just respond to the first point of privilege that was raised by the member for Waterloo North, and he has asked me to read his commments.

I have an article in front of me from the Globe and Mail of March 13, 1981; that was only a month or so ago, was it not? It says here: "Although the parties agreed on the need for rent control legislation, Liberal spokesman Herb Epp said the ceiling may have to be raised at some point to reflect recent increases in mortgage interest rates. 'There's no way I can make a commitment that it isn't going to change. I don't think anybody in his right mind would say that,' Mr. Epp."

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Walker: I had not finished speaking before when he interrupted me.

Mr. Speaker: I think you added enough clarification. Is this a new point of privilege? We have heard the point of privilege. We have had a response to it. This is getting into a debate. Mr. Philip has the floor; final supplementary.

Mr. Philip: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Did the minister not indicate to the Federation of Metro Tenants' Asssociations when he met with them yesterday that there would be a review of the position on rent review in the fall after the Ministry of Housing had done its study?

Can the minister explain why he seems so intent on nibbling away at the rent review system, by his trial balloons, in the light of the presentation made by the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations that a landlord in this province can have a tax-free minimum real profit rate of 22.7 per cent on his investment, while at the same time claiming a zero operating profit for rent review processes?

Why is the minister trying to find new ways of allowing landlords to make even more than they are already making, which is clearly quite adequate?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, the whole question seems to revolve around this issue of whether we keep the six per cent, and I relate it to the comments of the Premier that, with an inflation rate of about 13 per cent and with a prime interest rate of about 17 per cent, he found it difficult to be married to the absolute figure of six per cent. That seemed to be somewhat consistent with what many people had been saying, including, as I say, the housing critic and now another member of the Liberal Party, who felt that the six per cent figure would have to chipped away at. We have to take their words as being something.

Secondly, if I may quote from what the member himself said in the same article in the Toronto Star of March 16, 1981, here is the NDP housing critic, the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip), saying: "'This six per cent ceiling on rent increases may be a little low,'" said Philip."

2:40 p.m.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister. Will the minister not agree that—

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Peterson, please; Mr. Philip has a point of privilege.

Mr. Philip: I trust the minister is only kidding. If he would read further he would see my statement was that I could see no reason why our party would remove the six per cent ceiling in the coming House.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I have to admit I did not read further in the article. I stopped when I got to that; I thought that was the best part.

With all this continued pressure from the Liberal Party and the NDP to chip away at the six per cent figure, I think the Premier was quite in order to make the comment he did. After all, it is just reasonable for those comments to be made, and I think at some point that figure may be looked at.

Mr. Peterson: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: The Premier said before the election, and I quote: " 'We have no intention of altering the existing rent control program,' Davis told reporters here." That is specific; it is definitive.

Will the minister recall that he and I were at an all-candidates meeting during the last campaign and that we were asked a question about rent control? He said to his developer friends, there will be no change in the program. Does he not remember that?

Will he not agree that he and the Premier and the rest of his cronies have given rise to the impression they have been very much less than honest, not only with the voters but also with the people in this House? Will he not agree that he has changed his mind almost beyond definition?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I remember that all-candidates meeting very well; the member for London Centre was there. I was speaking not only to my developer friends and to tenant friends who were in the meeting but also to about two thirds of the meeting that happened to be his developer friends. He seemed to know most of them.

I think he has had a little bit of selective amnesia with respect to the comments I made. I said very clearly at that meeting—and I am prepared to invite two or three of them to come down and tell the honourable member those very words—that our Premier has indicated rent control is here to stay. And that is the way it is.

HOUSING PRICES

Mr. Cassidy: I have a new question for the Minister of Housing, Mr. Speaker. He stated on Monday that he did not believe the government had any rights to interfere in the rights of the market to flow according to the economy. I want to bring the minister's attention to a case on Endean Avenue, in the east end of Toronto, of a house that sold for $43,000 in November. It has had $35,000 worth of renovations since then and is now on the market for $140,000. If it sells anywhere near that price, the owners will have doubled their money and earned 100 per cent in the course of six months.

Does the minister believe it is equitable to people looking for a house that there should be no interference at all when people are earning 100 per cent on their money in the housing market of Metropolitan Toronto today?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, I indicated earlier this week and late last week that I was not without knowledge of the fact that there were some people buying homes, renovating and upgrading them and putting them back on the market at a rather substantial improvement in value. Putting it on the market and selling it are two different things. When the leader of the third party says that it is on the market at $140,000, one is not sure that one will receive $140,000. In frank and honest terms I have said, and I repeat, that the market, in my opinion, and not the interference of government legislation, will find the right value for those units.

Mr. Cassidy: According to the market, though, if the market finds its right level, according to the minister, a house in a working class area that was affordable for a family earning $20,000 in November 1980 is on the market now at a price that can be afforded only by a family earning $60,000 or $70,000 a year. Is this to become a province where only people earning that kind of income can have a home of their own? Or is there not to be policy by this government so that working families earning $20,000 a year can also have a home where they can live?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I also said last week and again this week—and I will repeat it once again—that as we watch the market develop and the sales taking place, we find that a number of people who are moving back into the downtown communities and into these areas where there is some refurbishing taking place are individuals who have had their homes in other areas; they have sold once or twice and have

had a marked improvement in their wellbeing as far as financing goes and the ability to move into an entirely different market.

I have indicated clearly, as I think the real estate people, the Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada, the Urban Development Institute and others have clearly indicated, that in this province and this particular jurisdiction of Metropolitan Toronto there are homes available for the average income earner.

I want to emphasize once again that we have watched through the various means and media an inflationary effect taking place on downtown property. I have said, and I say clearly again, I do not believe that at the values now being obtained, properties in the downtown core area of Metropolitan Toronto, and indeed in other metropolitan areas across Ontario, are going to be available to the middle income earner unless he is looking at buying his second or third home or he has had a marked improvement in his economics as a result of previous sales.

There are ample units in the outlying areas of the metropolitan areas available to that average income earner. May I emphasize that within the ministry, and we report for the Ontario Mortgage Corporation, we have in our OMC inventory more than 400 units on the market for sale at less than $30,000.

Mr. Ruprecht: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: The two opposition parties have quite clearly indicated that a crisis exists in the Metropolitan Toronto area in terms of the housing market here. In view of our idea of a crisis, I ask the minister whether he is looking at any options whatsoever to come to grips with this most serious issue. To repeat myself, in view of the grave crisis existing in the housing market, is the minister thinking of or looking at any option whatsoever to come to grips with this serious matter?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, just to make it very clear and very simple: I do not acknowledge that there is a crisis in the housing market in this community or indeed in Ontario.

Mr. Cassidy: Will the minister explain why, when conditions in the housing market today are identical to the speculative conditions that hit the housing market in 1974, the government was prepared in 1974 to interfere in the housing market, not just with the land speculation tax but also with money for the Ontario Housing Corporation and by activating the Ontario Land Corporation, and is not prepared to interfere now? Is it that the government only comes to the defence of the little guy in the housing market when facing an election rather than just past an election?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: In 1974, we brought into being in this province a land speculation tax to try to curb an inflated situation that had taken place in raw land throughout this Metropolitan Toronto area and, I guess, other parts of the province.

The Ontario Land Corporation has developed some of its holdings, and at the same time over this last five years or thereabouts, through the Ontario housing action program, $106 million has been put into place in infrastructure at the request of local municipalities and regional governments to open up a tremendous amount of raw land that could be serviced rather quickly.

I said in this House last week that there is something better than 70,000 lots or registrations for units that could be put in place tomorrow if the owners wished to do so. They are on land that has been approved by the provincial government and by the regional and local governments, and where the infrastructure of water and sewer is there. We have made sure there is a sufficient amount of serviced land to service all classes at all levels of opportunity in the housing field and the various prices therein.

At the same time, there was a thing brought in by the federal government to try to curb the speculation in housing. It was known as capital gains. If an individual did not reside in a residence for at least 180 days, he then was under the penalty of capital gains on that particular unit which could be classified as a speculative deal.

I think in more ways than one, through the Ontario Land Corporation, the Ontario Mortgage Corporation and so on, and with the assistance of municipalities and developers, we have made an adequate amount of land available for construction in this province. I again emphasize that there is a sufficient amount of serviced land ready and available for all price levels in the housing industry. I do not consider it to be in a crisis.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Revenue has the answer to a question previously asked.

AID TO PENSIONERS

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, on Monday of this week, the member for Kitchener (Mr.

Breithaupt) asked me to look into the wording of the letters being mailed to pensioners who had received property tax grants to which they were not entitled. Specifically, he asked whether the wording of these letters was in compliance with section 9 of the act.

I have had this matter reviewed by my legal staff, who advise that section 9 does not apply to the situations cited by the member. Section 9 deals specifically with the refusal to pay a grant on initial application. It is section 14 of the act that governs the recoveries of grants paid in error because of incorrect information supplied by applicants or as a result of an administrative mistake by the ministry.

Briefly, section 14 does not provide any formal notice of objection procedure. However, in practice, the process by which the ministry reviews situations involving possible recovery of grants automatically involves the examination of all relevant facts and any additional information that the recipients wish to provide.

While this is our practice, I agree that people should be made fully aware that we are anxious to explain the ministry's actions, as well as to discuss people's objections. Consequently, we are quite prepared to advise people in future of the opportunity our procedures provide for them to have their objections reviewed fully, as well as to explain clearly the ministry's position.

As in all other situations administered by my ministry, unresolved disputes are always subject to final determination by the courts. However, I am indeed confident that the review procedures that I have just described will continue to work satisfactorily and resolve the great majority of disputes we may encounter, without resorting to court action on either side.

In response to the second part of the member's question, the letters requesting repayment are indeed in compliance with the act. The letters also suggest to pensioners that, if they are unable to repay the grant fully at this time, they can contact the ministry to make alternative repayment arrangements, as I had indicated in answer to a previous question in this House some time last week.

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, can the minister advise us whether any policy has been decided upon with respect to minimum payments that will be allowed for pensioners who may require a length of time to deal with the resolution of this problem?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: There is no set policy with regard to minimum payments. As I have indicated previously to the House, we are quite prepared to look at each and every situation on its own merits and based on the needs of those particular individuals involved.

Mr. Epp: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: These people received their payments many months in advance, and it was not until after the election that they were asked to return money. Can the minister tell me if there is any coincidence in the fact that the government waited until these people had voted before asking them to return the money?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, that is of course a conclusion arrived at by the honourable member in a way best known to him. Of course that is not the case. This particular program is administered with a post-audit procedure, which involves auditing several hundred thousand applications and recipients, and this does take a considerable amount of time. That post-audit procedure is still in process.

ASTRA/RE-MOR

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, who may have had the opportunity to glance further at the Bimonthly Reports.

The minister is aware that, during the justice committee inquiry dealing with Re-Mor Investment Management Corporation, the Ontario Securities Commission stated it was strongly opposed in February 1979 to the granting of a licence to Re-Mor by the registrar of mortgage brokers. The OSC was already having so many problems with Mr. Carlo Montemurro that it probably could not imagine another licence being granted to him.

Despite this concern, can the minister explain how, when the OSC finally found out about Re-Mor a full year later and failed to obtain a search warrant against the firm, it waited another two months before ordering Re-Mor to cease trading? The minister will be aware that by that time Mr. Montemurro allegedly had siphoned off $275,000 from Re-Mor for his own personal use.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, that is a question I am going to have to ask of the commission. I certainly do not have the answer to that.

Mr. Bradley: Can the minister explain why the OSC laid charges against Astra Trust in secret a year before Re-Mor collapsed? Does the minister know that these charges were kept secret even from the business practices division of his own ministry? And does the minister

realize that Re-Mor would have had its licence revoked if this information had been known at the time?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Let me inquire of OSC at the same time, and I will attempt to provide the member with a more definitive answer.

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: I wonder if the minister at the same time would have his officials review the testimony taken at the justice committee, particularly that involving the chief investigator for the Ontario Securities Commission when he was describing the same events that were described by the assistant registrar of his ministry. Since the information was so diametrically opposed, will he bring this matter to the attention of his colleague the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry)? Obviously somebody was either seriously misinformed or deliberately misleading the committee.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I will take the proposal that is suggested and, yes, I will have the ministry review the pertinent sections of that rather copious testimony. I know that the ministry has paid some significant attention to each of the items that arose during it, and a number of proposals already have been drafted to ensure that things do not occur again that might be considered untoward in any way.

With respect to the matter relating to the Attorney General, I am sure he is well aware of that at the moment.

DEATH OF NIJAH DEGG

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services. Will the minister confirm or deny the existence of a report by his ministry on the death of Nijah Degg, a report that allegedly calls into question the role of the Children's Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto, as did the judge in this child abuse case recently?

If the report does exist, can the minister explain why it was not presented at the trial, and will the minister table it in the Legislature at the earliest opportunity? Or does he agree with Mr. Heath of his Toronto area office, who thinks release of this report should await an inquest, an inquest that might not come for perhaps another two years or so?

Hon. Mr. Drea: That comment is nonsense, Mr. Speaker. First of all, there is a report. The report was compiled for use by the crown at the inquest. An inquest was ordered prior to the laying of criminal charges in this matter, as I understand it. The inquest was then adjourned until the disposition of criminal charges in the matter. The criminal charges have not been disposed of because, subsequent to conviction and sentence, an appeal has been filed. The inquest will be delayed until the appeal is heard. I understand the appeal will be heard some time within the next 60 or 70 days, far from it being two years.

The report really is for the use of the crown at the time of the inquest. I discussed the matter of the report with the law officers of the crown this morning, and their view was that, until the inquest commences, the report touches on matters that are still sub judice.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Does the minister not see a parallel in terms of delays here with the 26-month delay we had in waiting for Judge Ward Allen's report into the 1976 death of Kim Anne Popen in Sarnia which, as we just heard recently, is not near completion.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Ask them one at a time.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order. The member for Scarborough West is asking a question.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Does the minister not agree that the problem of child abuse, especially of children under the supposed support and protection of our public agencies, is sufficiently important that no report should be held from this body here at least for any undue time? Will the minister not ask that it be tabled here, or pick out the parts of it that do not affect the particular case but affect instead the role of children's aid societies in general? Will he not also set an early deadline for Judge Allen to complete his report on the Popen death?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, that is about nine questions; let me try to sort them out.

First, dealing with this report: I want to make it abundantly clear that the descriptions in the press about the contents of this report are the descriptions of the press. It would be extremely difficult and, quite frankly, in my view of no value to this House to take out parts of the report file that have no bearing upon the criminal matters. I do not think those would be of any particular value to the matters that the member has quite rightfully raised.

In terms of delay in this matter, of course, this ministry has no influence on the scheduling of matters before the Court of Appeal, but I have drawn to the attention of the Ministry of the Attorney General that because of the substantial matters raised in the criminal trial, and I do not wish to go into those because they are the

matters that are going to be the basis of the appeal, I would like the inquest to start as soon as possible.

In regard to the other matter, I will look into that. I have an entirely different concern. I can understand the honourable member's concern, and I frankly share it, that long after a matter has been disposed of in other forums there appears to be a delay in getting the final view. I will look into that and report back to the member.

But I want to make it very plain that, while I do not like delays, when there is a criminal proceeding or there are criminal charges preventing the commencement of an inquest, I think the delay is justified by the fact that the matter is sub judice before the criminal courts. I must say in this case that I think the criminal courts, in a very complex and a very significant case, did expedite the original criminal matters within the terms of a fair and impartial determination.

ASTRA TRUST/RE-MOR

Mr. Cunningham: In the absence of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), I want to direct a question to the Provincial Secretary for Justice. The minister must be aware of the report that the Ontario Provincial Police seized a box of tape recordings made by Carlo Montemurro of his telephone conversations. It is reported that in one particular conversation Montemurro discusses with John Clement why a government investigation into C and M is being pressed. It is reported that in yet another conversation Montemurro tells organized crime figure George Bagnato that Clement has been paid $15,000 and has done nothing.

Will the Attorney General give his assurance that, when the justice committee reconvenes the inquiry into Astra and Re-Mor, these tapes will be made available to the committee?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I will not give the assurance; I will certainly pass on the question to the Attorney General. But the member well knows that there are criminal charges existing now, and it is expected that all matters will be properly dealt with in that forum. So perhaps he can be satisfied in knowing that they are going to dealt with by one of Her Majesty's appropriate judges and that should be sufficient.

Mr. Cunningham: Still on the subject of Re-Mor, it has been reported in the Bimonthly Reports that John Clement's firm moved in court to get Astra to pay its legal fees. It is further reported that the court file regarding this particular matter is missing. As the Attorney General would be aware, such a file would itemize in detail what John Clement did for Astra Trust. Can the Provincial Secretary for Justice give his assurance that everything will be done to locate this particular file?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Yes, if the file is required for a specific purpose. I have to remind the honourable member that he is simply reading excerpts from the document that was sent over earlier by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Smith), that issues document.

If there is a file that is required to be presented somewhere, I can give the member the assurance that the courts of this province will do everything they can to find the file if it happens to be lost in their own system, or the Attorney General will, if he happens to know where it might be located.

For instance, it may well be located in the files the honourable member has locked away for the purposes of the justice committee. If that is the case, I am sure the file will be located and turned over. I do not think the member is making any allegation that someone has done something to a file, is he?

DOMTAR DISPUTE

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Can the minister tell the House what he intends to do to get the two sides in the six-month-old Domtar strike in Cornwall back to the bargaining table, especially to avoid a situation where there was virtually no face-to-face negotiations for a full period of four months?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, with the greatest respect, I do not quite like the phrase "do something to get the parties together."

Mr. Martel: The Premier promised to do something about it during the election.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Hang on, we are not going fishing yet. I may not go if the member keeps at that.

The honourable member well knows that we were very actively involved at the conciliation and mediation stage in that strike. He well knows that a disputes arbitration committee was appointed, made up of Bob Joyce on behalf of management and Terry Meagher on behalf of the Ontario Federation of Labour.

He well knows that I have personally met twice with the parties. He well knows that the

mediators and the disputes advisory committee have been in touch with the parties continuously.

He also well knows that an offer was put to the parties and was accepted at the negotiating table. It was rejected by Cornwall but accepted by York East and St. Catharines.

If that is not doing the job, then I tell my friend he has the problem and not me.

Mr. Samis: The minister is not answering the question. The question relates to what he is intending to do since the vote by the workers in Cornwall.

Second, can the minister tell the House whether he is actually satisfied that Domtar is negotiating in good faith, since it has consistently and dogmatically rejected any settlement on the basis of the Abitibi formula, which has been accepted by every other major pulp and paper producer in this province?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I do not think the member really means to ask my opinion as to whether either party is bargaining in good faith. He knows we have the Ontario Labour Relations Board, which can settle those issues very readily if any party feels that is a just accusation. There have been no such charges.

The disputes advisory committee continues to be in touch with the parties and will continue to be in touch with them. If there is any indication that bringing them together will be fruitful, we will be glad to do so.

LIQUID WASTE DISPOSAL

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. Will the minister insist on the installation of the South Cayuga industrial waste site without a proper hearing, a determination that was made by the former minister? Is the minister going to insist on that particular tack of putting it in without a hearing?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the honourable member understands that what is proposed there is not to proceed without a hearing. I think the question he really means to ask is whether there would be proceedings under the Environmental Assessment Act. I have said, and I repeat, that the decisions taken by my predecessor were decisions I supported at that time as a member of the cabinet. I continue to support them, and they are not on the agenda for reconsideration.

The intention I am quite prepared to state is that of proceeding with the hearings as had been outlined by my predecessor, hearings which, if the member will examine what has been proposed, will guarantee perhaps even fuller opportunity for examination of the safety of the site and the technology than might be possible under the Environmental Assessment Act.

It is true that it does have the effect, for example, of focusing the attention upon a specific site as opposed to looking at all sites in Ontario in one hearing, which I think even the member would understand might well be a futile exercise. The difficult decision that my predecessor made is a decision which, in my opinion, will stand.

3:10 p.m.

The other effect this proceeding will have is that it will presumably not deal with the matter of necessity, because it was my understanding that all parties in the legislative committee, in February of this year, I believe, acknowledged there was a necessity to proceed with a waste treatment facility.

The question of necessity is not at issue. There really is not much point in dealing with the issue of necessity in an environmental assessment hearing. But I can assure the honourable member there will be open sharing of information and consultation with the public. There will be every opportunity for people to be heard as the hearings progress.

MOTIONS

STANDING COMMITTEES

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that the membership of the standing committees be as follows:

Administration of justice: Messrs. Andrewes, Bradley, Breithaupt, Elston, Gordon, MacQuarrie, Mitchell, Piche, Renwick, Swart, Treleaven and Williams;

General government: Messrs. Barlow, Brandt, Ms. Bryden, Ms. Copps, Messrs. Eves, Hennessy, Kells, McGuigan, McKessock, Runciman, Sheppard and Wildman;

Resources development: Messrs. Eakins, Eaton, Harris, Havrot, J. M. Johnson, Kerrio, Lane, Laughren, McNeil, Riddell, Stevenson and Stokes;

Social development: Mr. Dean, Ms. Fish, Messrs. Gillies, R. F. Johnston, Jones, Kennedy, Kolyn, McClellan, Ruprecht, Shymko, Sweeney and Van Horne;

Members' services: Messrs. Boudria, Di Santo, Hodgson, Kerr, McLean, O'Neil, Robinson, Rotenberg, Ruston, Samis, G. W. Taylor and Watson;

Procedural affairs: Messrs. Breaugh, Charlton,

Edighoffer, Epp, Kerr, Mancini, McLean, Robinson, Rotenberg, G. W. Taylor, Watson and Hodgson;

Public accounts: Messrs. Cousens, Cunningham, Foulds, Peterson, Philip, Pollock, T. P. Reid, Sargent, Mrs. Scrivener, Messrs. J. A. Taylor, Villeneuve and Yakabuski;

Regulations and other statutory instruments: Messrs. Barlow, Brandt, Eves, Grande, Haggerty, Hennessy, Kells, MacDonald, McEwen, G. I. Miller, Runciman and Sheppard.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE SITTINGS

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that this House endorse the following schedules for committee meetings during this session:

The standing committee on social development may meet on the afternoons of Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays; the standing committee on resources development may meet on the evenings of Tuesdays and Thursdays; the standing committee on general government may meet on Wednesday afternoons; and the standing committee on administration of justice may meet on Thursday afternoons and Friday mornings.

On Wednesday mornings no more than two of the following committees may meet without leave of the House: general government, resources development and administration of justice. The following committees may meet on Thursday mornings: public accounts, procedural affairs, regulations and other statutory instruments. The following committee may meet on Thursday afternoons: members' services.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I want to raise a matter with the minister because I cannot find—it escapes me—where the resources development committee will meet on Wednesdays. Am I missing something? I just cannot see it.

Mr. Speaker: It is in the sixth paragraph, Mr. Martel.

Mr. Martel: Thank you.

Motion agreed to.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that Mr. Martel and Mr. Foulds exchange places in the order of precedence for private members' public business.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, may I rise on a question of order?

Mr. Speaker: A point of order?

Mr. Roy: Yes, a point of order. In computing the time for question period, I would like to ask, Mr. Speaker, whether you include in the time the time that is taken up by points of order or points of privilege or whether they are deducted from the question period time. I would like to rely on your comments and not on the comments of the people across the way. I am not sure I can rely on those statements.

Mr. Speaker: The members of the House will be interested in knowing that the rules state quite clearly that points of order or points of privilege are to be included in the time for question period.

Mr. Roy: They are to be included?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Mr. Nixon: That is why he raised the point afterwards.

Mr. Speaker: Right.

Later.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, before you call the orders of the day, may I rise again on the point of order I raised with you. I want to apologize to you as I may not have been as clear as I should have been in explaining my concern about what can be included in the question period. My question to you was simply whether points of order and points of privilege were in fact included in the question period.

I think your response was that points of order are included in the question period pursuant to the standing orders. Of course, you are quite right. As I read from the standing orders, section 27(a) states: "The oral question period shall be limited to 60 minutes, including supplementary questions and points of order."

Nowhere in the standing order, though, do I see that points of privilege should be included. I would ask if you could possibly give your ruling. We, on this side, are always prepared to abide by the ruling—and we are not in any way questioning the wisdom of any such ruling—but we want some clarification pursuant to the rule. I think it is important that we know exactly what is included in the question period and what should not be. My respectful submission to you, from reading the standing orders, is that points

of privilege should not be included but points of order should be if they are raised during the question period.

Mr. Speaker: I shall be pleased to take the member's request into consideration.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, speaking to the same point of order, I hope when you are considering this matter you will take into account the precedents established over the course of the last four years.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

ONTARIO REFERENDUM ACT

Mr. T. P. Reid moved first reading of Bill 27, an Act to provide a Referendum Procedure for Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, this bill provides that the people of Ontario will have an opportunity to express their opinions on various matters, perhaps constitutional matters, through a referendum called either by a private member or on resolution of the House. It also provides that the referendum may be held in a specific region or area of the province rather than across the province as a whole.

This is a promise that I am keeping to my constituents who expressed a concern during the election, and previously, in regard to the possibility of nuclear waste being stored in northwestern Ontario. I understand this is a move supported by the present Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) on occasion. But, in any case, this referendum bill does provide for the citizens of the province to have a direct say. I hope it will make them feel less apart from the decision-making process in this province.

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Philip moved first reading of Bill 28, An Act to amend the Residential Tenancies Act, 1979.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to amend the exemption provision in part 11, rent review, of the act in order to eliminate the exemption for buildings occupied after January 1, 1976.

I have two other amendments to the same act that I would like to introduce.

3:20 p.m.

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Philip moved first reading of Bill 29, An Act to amend the Residential Tenancies Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to require that the appeal commissioners under the Residential Tenancies Act, 1979, consist of an equal number of representatives of landlords and tenants.

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Philip moved first reading of Bill 30, An Act to amend the Residential Tenancies Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Philip: This is a very hopeful bill because the purpose of the bill is to provide authority to the Residential Tenancy Commission to order a reduction in the rent charged by a landlord where the landlord's financing costs are reduced as a result of lower interest rates.

INCO LIMITED ACQUISITION ACT

Mr. Martel moved first reading of Bill 31, An Act to acquire the Assets of Inco Limited.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, in introducing this bill, I might say I suggested to the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon) that he might support me in view of the position he takes when he is in the Sudbury basin. He has declined, however.

The purpose of the bill is to vest the title and the control of the assets, situate in Ontario, of Inco Limited in a crown corporation, the Ontario Nickel Corporation. If compensation cannot be agreed upon, provision is made for arbitration. The objects of the Ontario Nickel Corporation would include the task of operating and maintaining the assets of Inco Limited so as to provide employment and other economic benefits to the province of Ontario. I am really surprised that the member for Sudbury would not support me when he advocates that when he is in Sudbury.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE
(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Speaker, before commencing my remarks I would like to add my congratulations to the many you are receiving upon your election as Speaker of this Legislature. Yours is certainly a popular appointment and one which I am sure you will fulfil with the warmth, good spirits and fairness which have always been so notable among your personal attributes.

I would like to take this opportunity to compliment the 26 new members who have now taken their place in this provincial parliament. I am sure they will discover, as I have, that the Legislature is a fascinating place, one which provides fulfilment and tremendous satisfaction for its members.

In response to the speech from the throne, I wish today to comment upon the issue of transportation and, more particularly, upon the role I see railway transportation playing in this province. In this connection, I am pleased to note the presence in the west gallery and in the gallery under the Speaker's gallery of a number of people who have a particular interest in rail.

I have noted a member of our provincial task force, Dr. Tuzo Wilson. I have observed that Mr. W. Spooner, a former member of this House and now commissioner of the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission, as well as two executive members of that commission, Messrs. Brooks and Moore, are both here. I have observed that Mr. H. N. R. Jackman, the chairman of the board of the Algoma Central Railway, is here, as well as Mr. Frank Shute and Mr. Sam Gilmore of Via Rail, Mr. John Thompson of the Toronto Transit Commission, Mr. John McFadgen representing Mr. David Crombie, MP, Mr. Peter Oehm and a number of members of the executive of the Upper Canada Railway Society, Mr. M. Mooney of the Ontario Railway Association, a number of representatives from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and, of course, quite a number of other concerned and interested citizens.

There is a renewed and very strong public awareness concerning all aspects of railway transportation in this province and in this country, both its shortcomings and its potential opportunities and benefits. The derailment of Canadian Pacific Railway train 54 in Mississauga in November, 1979, and the subsequent fire and evacuation brought into sharp focus for the people of this province and throughout the world the potential impact the operation of a rail transportation system can have upon people living along a railway corridor or even some considerable distance from it.

This is especially true in my own riding of St. David which is one of the oldest and most historic ridings in downtown Toronto and one which I have been honoured to represent since 1971. St. David probably has more railway trackage within its boundaries than any other riding in Ontario. In the southerly reaches adjacent to the Keating Channel and the Toronto harbour area is the Canadian National Don sorting yard and the massive track approach to Union Station. In the easterly sector and paralelling the river in the Don Valley are major lines of both Canadian National and Canadian Pacific which carry heavy passenger and freight traffic on northbound routes out of the city.

GO Transit service to Richmond Hill traverses this route and, as most people are aware, the CP main line cuts through the very heart of Metropolitan Toronto and, consequently, through St. David midway in the riding between north Rosedale and Moore Park. Not to be overlooked is the fact that the right of way for the old CN belt line railway follows the north boundary of Mount Pleasant cemetery.

3:30 p.m.

In addition, St. David is bound on its westerly sector by the north-south Yonge subway line and through its centre by the east-west Bloor subway line. For years constituents of St. David have been concerned about the noise and vibration emanating from the heavy freight traffic carried on the CP main line and the attendant safety hazards implicit in its operation.

Over a considerable period of time they have expressed their concerns to railway officials, to the Department of Transport, the Canadian Transport Commission and senior government representatives, including the Minister of Transport and the Mayor of Toronto. Although much effort was expended, it appeared that very little could be accomplished.

However, the Mississauga disaster has changed the climate of public opinion in a dramatic manner. One of the positive things to arise from that event was the formation by some concerned residents of St. David of MTRAC, the Metropolitan Toronto Residents Action Committee. Now allied with residents' groups across Metro, this organization has made excellent presentations concerning the need for safe railway transport of dangerous commodities to

the Grange commission and, commencing last week, to the railway transport committee of the Canadian Transport Commission.

MTRAC is spearheaded by dedicated persons like Harold Morrison, Harry Behrend, David Scott, Rose Dyson, Gordon Waldie, Kenneth Ross and Professor Geoffery Norris. I commend the work of this important group and take pleasure in placing a statement concerning its activities in this official record.

As elected representatives of the people of this province, we as members must do all we can to maintain and enhance the quality of life our citizens enjoy. Their present standard of living must be jealously guarded. At the same time, there are pressing concerns which threaten to drastically change our way of life, especially when it comes to the excellent standard of transportation we have known in Ontario.

World petroleum shortages and rapidly rising energy costs have forced us to look at ways of reducing the amount of petroleum energy we use. One means is through transportation, which is responsible for the consumption of approximately 50 per cent of the total petroleum fuel in the province. In a word, rail is an energy-efficient mode of transport. It is one which we simply have to consider seriously in the context of depleting and ever more expensive oil supplies.

The bill for oil imports for all purposes into Canada in 1980 was nearly $4 billion in badly needed foreign exchange, and this situation is worsening. In addition, competition for government funds has resulted in a gradual decrease in the percentage of public money available for transportation programs.

What does this mean to the government of Ontario? We have to get more out of the total transportation dollars available. We have to reduce our petroleum energy consumption. We have not only to continue but also to find new ways to spend public funds for transportation wisely and effectively. We have to ensure that we are getting the maximum use out of each form of transporation and its existing infrastructure. This means greater co-ordination and integration. Most important, the various modes must complement one another so that the result is the best total transportation system possible.

But, one may ask, isn't it a federal responsibility? The federal government, naturally, has national interests to which it must give first priority. But it is the responsibility of our provincial government to ensure that provincial priorities are being adequately addressed. Regardless of jurisdictional problems, Ontario must be fully involved in the development and implementation of transportation policies which affect any components of the multifaceted transportation system in this province.

It was with these concerns and others in mind that the Premier (Mr. Davis) asked me to chair the Ontario Task Force on Provincial Rail Policy. When he established the task force in January, 1980, the Premier stated as terms of reference, "There is a need to develop a provincial perspective to rail transportation to ensure that the government of Ontario implements in the 1980s a transportation plan which will provide for the needs of the province," and he added that both passenger and freight transport would be reviewed with concerns for commuter rail, intercity rail and improvement of track and equipment.

In the task force, we had the opportunity to look at rail from two unique perspectives. First, we examined the role of rail as it serves the people of Ontario now. This had not been done in modern times. Second, we were commissioned to determine the future of rail in Ontario and how best it can be utilized in the decades ahead. Of course, both perspectives were interrelated. Of the two, there is no question in my mind but that the latter was the more important.

We have had a history in this country since the Second World War of dismantling our railway systems. A great many people have been engaged in the process of so-called rationalization whereby we have seen the rail network disintegrate and passenger and freight service all but disappear in many parts of the province. The result is that we have a railway system which does not serve all parts of Ontario, nor of Canada for that matter. We are left with great gaps in the system.

We, in the task force, were asked to advise the government about the opposite of this dismantling process. We were asked to take a look at the opportunities for the greater use of rail during the next 30 years and beyond. We were to ignore the current trend and see whether there is not a better way to use rail within an energy-efficient, balanced transportation system in Ontario. The question was posed: Can rail once again play a full and dynamic role? The answer to that is a resounding yes.

There is no doubt that rail is important to this province today and has to be buttressed. There was a perception in the minds of a great many people, including some senior railway people, that rail service was in trouble and in need of

serious attention. What the government wanted us to do was put aside the pessimism and cynicism of the critics and consider in positive terms how to improve the role that rail can play and how to achieve that role.

I am confident that every member of this House would draw the same conclusion as did members of the task force, after listening to those who came forward and presented their views, that rail has a challenging, promising, dynamic, exciting and prosperous future. I think they would also conclude, as we did, that rail will not only survive, but it must survive for the economic strength of this province and this country.

Despite the deterioration of this system over the years, rail today is a strategically important transportation mode in Ontario. The good news is that with the encouragement and assistance of both the federal and Ontario governments, it will be rejuvenated and become more effective, more diversified, more energy-efficient and, I believe, more economically viable. Rail can once again become a superior transportation resource functioning as a full partner in a balanced transportation system in this province. It will not be easy or inexpensive to accomplish, as our task force report states, but it is essential that we succeed in this important goal.

Our mandate was to examine the potential of rail, both passenger and goods movement, over the next 30 years. This was the time span viewed as necessary to accommodate decisions made today for the implementation and benefit of the people of Ontario in the foreseeable future. The challenge of finding a crystal ball that was not clouded by the rhetoric of those who could only see rail as an anachronistic transportation system was almost more daunting than the actual conduct of our study.

I am not going to suggest that the task force found a crystal ball with an unobstructed view of the future. Of course, we did not. However, we did find many people who have a common sense grasp of what can and should be done to ensure that the options for this country are not precluded or distorted by negative thinking or a pessimistic sense of inevitable decline. We found people who had the conviction to propose that we get on with it, put into place the new technologies available to us and restore rail service to some of the areas where it has been removed. We were impressed by what such people saw as our potential future, and to a considerable degree our report supports their view.

In its final report, the task force calls for decisions, action and investment which will enable rail to help pull this country forward into the next century towards the achievement of our economic, social and cultural potential. We found people, many of them inside the railway industry, with a profound sense of confidence in Canada, in Ontario and in the railway mode. They were excited about what we can do if we can get our act together and put some money where our dreams are.

3:40 p.m.

These people pushed aside the murkiness of the crystal ball and helped provide the insights which shaped our report and our view of what we can accomplish over the next 30 years. But we have to get there from here. Hence our report, which has close to 200 recommendations. It calls for prompt action, dealing first with the pressing problems of today, and then reaching out for the medium and long-term decisions required to put rail to use for us fully once again.

Our report recognizes that, right now, the economic and energy pressures on transportation are so great that changes are essential immediately in terms of how railways move people and goods. First and foremost, we have concluded that while the federal government must continue and expand upon its financial support for railways, there must be a larger and more aggressive provincial involvement in planning and development of the railway system in Ontario.

Few people realize that there are over 10,000 miles of railway in Ontario. Some of these lines are of strong federal interest because they serve countrywide, interprovincial or international needs. Many others cater strictly for regional and local needs within the province. All of the lines have a strong influence on our total transportation system and the economy of Ontario.

The task force came to the early conclusion that it is important to develop a partnership between the province, the federal government and the railways in the provision of railway services in Ontario so that the public can receive maximum benefit from a balanced and totally integrated transportation system.

Transportation planning can no longer take place in isolation, with a blind eye turned towards those forms of transport which fall under some other jurisdiction. Fresh approaches are required by all parties, with consultation

and co-operation taking place for the benefit of the public at large. Jurisdiction can no longer be invoked as a barrier to that joint approach.

For its part, the federal government should develop, in consultation with the provinces, a clearly defined national transportation policy which stresses the importance of rail for both passenger and freight transportation. As part of this policy, it will be essential to develop a national rail strategy within which the Department of Transport, the Canadian Transport Commission, the railways and the provinces can work together to achieve maximum system utility and efficiency.

The task force is also recommending that the federal Minister of Transport reclaim or reassert his full responsibility for establishment of broad national rail policy, and that the role of the CTC be limited to advising the minister on the public need only. I informed Mr. Pepin, the federal Minister of Transport, of that fact last Monday.

At the present time, the Canadian Transport Commission has the power to determine the minimum levels and quality of passenger rail service in this country. The cumulative effect of these decisions has resulted in the de facto establishment by the CTC of a significant portion of passenger rail policy, including the minimum levels of funding allocated to these services; yet the CTC bears neither financial nor political accountability for this decision making.

For its part, the province will have to develop a master rail plan, classifying the various rail services in Ontario according to provincial or national interest as the case may be. The development of this master rail plan will require considerable discussion with the municipalities and the users as a means of identifying local and regional needs and priorities.

We foresee the master rail plan being used as a basis for determining the degree of direct or indirect provincial involvement in the provision of various rail services in Ontario, and as a foundation for continuing discussion with the users, the railways and the federal government.

We firmly believe that in this era of rising energy costs, rail is the obvious answer to many transportation problems. Of all our forms of transportation, only rail need not be dependent on petroleum based or liquid fuels, and it is efficient. In fact, rail is the most economical year-round mode for shipping bulk commodities. Unit trains use only one quarter of the fuel required for a similar haul by truck.

To ensure that the full capabilities of rail are realized as an integral part of an effective total transportation system in Ontario, we see the provincial government acting in the following way: (1) to safeguard the public interest by ensuring the continuing availability of vital rail services; (2) as a mediator to facilitate co-operation and co-ordination between rail and the other modes of transport; (3) as a spokesman and intervener on behalf of the users and operators of rail services, and (4) as a catalyst to encourage and help implement new rail services that are in the public interest but cannot be implemented by the private sector alone.

We also think that the province should take a direct interest in local, regional and commuter services within its borders and a strong supporting interest in interprovincial or international services; that the province should help to protect the quality of life by minimizing negative community impact and striving to ensure safe rail operations, and that the province should provide financial assistance for the construction of railway plant or purchasing of equipment where broad provincial public objectives are served by such assistance.

We are in a new era, an era of energy conservation and retrenchment in government spending. Obviously changes in railway direction must be made to match our changing time. The basic railway infrastructure is available, albeit in need of modernization, and it must be utilized to its maximum advantage. For instance, why should the individual railway rights of way, most of which were paid for by public funds, be off limits to other than the owner railway? We believe that the issues of shared track usage and access to the railway infrastructure are of utmost importance, and we are recommending that all railways be permitted the use of another railway company's tracks for a fair fee. Then that shared use will improve the cost of service to the public.

Not only have the major railways held a general monopoly over the use of their individual lines, which should be regarded as a national resource, but they also seem to regard passenger service subsidized by the government as a necessary evil which must not interfere in any substantial way with the profit-making aspects of their operation.

Railways are not a business like any other. Hand in hand with the financial underpinnings that governments have provided in the past has been the understanding that there is a responsibility to provide certain public service obliga-

tions. But now it appears that profitability has become paramount to the railways and the federal government and has overshadowed these public service obligations.

The task force has concluded that a primary focus of provincial concern has to be placed upon passenger services. It is this area that has suffered the greatest deterioration and where the greatest potential lies if we are to regain a balance in our transportation system.

Passenger trains must be fast, reliable and comfortable if we are to have a successful passenger service, but these goals are prejudiced by existing freight train operations in Canada. The basic problem is that track subjected to frequent pounding of heavy freight axle loads is soon rendered unsuitable for safe, fast, light, comfortable passenger operations.

Passenger trains running over the same track are not only subject to the shocks and vibrations that the damage and wear by freight produces but also must slow to near-freight speeds to negotiate curves that have been flattened by the slower-moving freight trains. To add insult to injury, passenger trains are often forced to wait until shunting freight trains have cleared the track.

If there is to be a continued resurgence in passenger train service in those areas and corridors where rail can be the most efficient and desirable form of transport, then changes have to be made. Passenger rail must be reliable but, if there is to be any hope for such reliability, then passenger rail must be accorded track priority over the less time-critical freight service.

3:50 p.m.

In the Windsor-Quebec City corridor, where the ridership represents more than half the ridership of the entire Canadian rail system, we see major improvements leading to ultramodern, high-speed rail service. Electrification, rationalization of freight and passenger operations and exclusive or dedicated rail passenger rights of way all have to be given serious consideration.

Upgrading of the existing roadbed, rolling stock and signalling, and elimination or positive protection of all grade crossings are essential.

In the north, we see a redesigned transcontinental service continued as a superior cross-Canada heritage trip. The present transcontinental service attempts to play a dual role, serving both long-distance and local service and as a consequence does neither well. We see a separate local and regional rail service being developed to serve Ontario's northern communities.

GO Transit service has done a remarkable job in serving the needs of the commuting public in the Metropolitan Toronto area. However, these services have been more costly than was necessary because of treatment at the hands of the major railways. As a captive to the individual railway owning the lines on which it operates, GO Transit, and therefore the Ontario government, has contributed considerable profit to the railways. The federal government does not allow Via Rail to be charged in a similar fashion. We are recommending that railway company charges for any government-sponsored commuter services be limited to a level no higher than the railway's cost of providing that service.

In our deliberations, we have made a point of looking ahead to the role that rail can play in our future. Many of our recommendations are made with future requirements in mind and the need to protect our options. As a case in point, we have suggested that some of our larger urban centres, such as Ottawa, Hamilton and London, should be examined to determine their potential to support rail commuter services similar to those provided in Toronto. Since our cities are constantly expanding, with ever-increasing demands being placed upon transportation facilities, we believe that now is the time to protect future commuter corridors and to provide appropriate land use planning.

The task force has endorsed railway electrification for its total transportation advantages as well as for the greater security resulting from both direct and indirect reduction in the use of petroleum as a transportation fuel in Ontario. It is in line with this recommendation that the province, as has already been announced through BILD, is proceeding to the design phase of electrification of the GO Transit Lakeshore corridor from Oakville to Pickering. We also see this initiative leading to a joint study between the provincial and federal governments to examine simultaneous electrification of the Windsor-Quebec City corridor.

In terms of the profit-making freight side of the railway business, the task force has concluded that the benefits of the so-called competition between the two major railways are largely illusory and may not exist in fact. Even while we reject a government takeover or nationalism of all railway rights of way or their amalgamation, we do expect that increased

shipper access to the entire railway system through promotion of shared use of track will result in increased intrarailway competition.

At the same time, the task force believes that collusion on rate setting negates the main value in having two separate railways. Therefore, we recommend that the federal government amend appropriate legislation to ensure that the railways become subject to the terms of the Combines Investigation Act.

While there is no doubt that rail is vitally important to the economy of Ontario today, we are firmly convinced that railways and rail-related industries will be even more important in the coming years. However, if we are to build upon the base of our existing high-technology industries and take advantage of the growth potential in the export field, and if we are to see our domestic railways move successfully into the next century with a safer, more productive and more energy-efficient system, there must be a dramatic increase in rail-related research activities.

Canada lags behind most other industrialized countries in its spending on all types of research and development, with spending on rail-related research being at an extremely low level. If our railway technology is to compete in the international marketplace, the level of activity relating to rail research and development must increase significantly and be sustained over the long term.

The task force recommends that there be a strong federal government commitment to support research and development at least in proportion to the research and development share of the economy as a whole. This would mean a level of spending of 1.5 per cent of rail-related gross national product by 1985. Only $174 million, or approximately four tenths of one per cent of transportation-related gross national product, was spent on total transportation research and development in 1977; and only $10.4 million, or six per cent of that total, was spent on railway research and development, a remarkably low level of research expenditure by any yardstick.

These are just some of the highlights of the close to 200 recommendations made by the task force which, when implemented, should lead to the revitalization of rail as a major component of an integrated transportation system in Ontario. I keep stressing this, because it is so important to us.

Before going on to elaborate in greater detail on some of these issues and others addressed in this report, I would like for a moment to talk about what was involved in this undertaking and to acknowledge all those who had some hand in the final outcome.

When we started organizing the task force in late 1979, I knew we had a considerable challenge ahead, but even I underestimated the extent of work required to adequately investigate and report upon the myriad of issues affecting rail transportation in the province, and to do so by the deadline that had been established.

We did not have the luxury of being able to concentrate exclusively on one issue, such as railway safety. We were asked to develop an overall perspective on all aspects of rail transportation in Ontario. Not only were we to look at the railway operations themselves but also we had to consider their impact upon all other forms of transport in an integrated transportation system. The task force held its first meeting on January 23, 1980, and from that date met weekly for almost a year to hear witnesses and presentations, to discuss submissions, working papers and issues and, finally, to make recommendations. It has been hard work but very satisfying work.

There are so many people to thank for the contributions they have made to this task force. There were the many concerned individuals and groups who took the time to phone or write with their views on rail transportation in the province. There were the large number of municipalities who submitted their briefs and proposals on the rail requirements of their citizens and industries. There were the many expert witnesses from the railways, competing transport modes, various levels of government, the academic and research communities and consumer groups who appeared before the task force. There were those within and without government who prepared 30 specialized working papers for consideration by the task force members. There were those dedicated individuals on our task force secretariat and my personal staff who worked long hours arranging meetings and preparing reports and discussion papers for the use of task force members.

Finally, there were the members of the task force themselves, who contributed immeasurably to the strength of our final product as a result of the depth of experience and expertise each of them brought to this study.

There were four deputy ministers: Mr. Harold Gilbert from the Ministry of Transportation and Communication, Mr. Arthur Herridge from

the Ministry of Northern Affairs, Mr. John Thatcher from the Ministry of Government Services, and Mr. L. R. "Red" Wilson from the Ministry of Industry and Tourism.

There were also four members at large: Dr. Allan Blair, who was with the Science Council of Canada and is now with the National Energy Board; Dr. Herbert Smith, a private consulting engineer, formerly president of Canadian General Electric and later chairman of de Havilland Aircraft; Dr. Richard Soberman, director of the University of Toronto-York University joint program in transportation; and Dr. J. Tuzo Wilson, director general of the Ontario Science Centre.

4 p.m.

Many of the issues we came to grips with during our deliberations were highly complex, and at the outset we did not always agree about the approaches to be taken. However, through the course of our discussions and many long and hard meetings, I can say we arrived at a consensus on the recommendations in our final report.

In addition to the weekly meetings, the task force members met with state officials in New York, the New England states, Michigan and Ohio, to discuss their involvement in meeting the challenge of state rail transportation priorities. It is a considerable involvement, since most of them have individual state rail programs in addition to those services funded by the federal government.

A trip was also made to Europe by task force representatives to examine the role of several European governments in their rail systems and services.

In May 1980, we sponsored a one-day seminar on rail policy that was attended by representatives of the railways, shippers, competing transportation modes, governments, the academic community, consulting experts and consumer groups. We also made field trips to look at such things as the Bramport freight intermodal terminal and recent residential development along railway lines.

In November 1980, after nine months of meetings and intensive involvement, we released our five-volume interim report. Three volumes of the report contain the 30 background working papers commissioned by the task force. These papers covered all aspects concerning railways in this province from history to energy and technology, from safety to competition, to land-use planning. One of these volumes also included maps of the railway network, passenger service frequency, freight service frequency and maximum allowable operating speeds.

A fourth volume contained a random sampling of public submissions made to the task force. The fifth and main volume was a discussion of the issues the task force had been examining and the problems that had to be resolved. This interim report, entitled A Policy Position, was presented at that time as a guideline for continuing examination and as a primer and backgrounder for those who wanted a better understanding of railway issues affecting the people of Ontario.

The entire five-volume interim report was well received and is now regarded as a valuable resource document. Since its release, we have received requests for copies from as far away as New Zealand, South Africa, England and Mexico.

From October 1980 through to early January 1981, we maintained a rigorous schedule to complete the final report and recommendations, which have just been released. Because of the recent election, it could not be published at an earlier date.

A few moments ago, I highlighted some of the recommendations and directions we feel the province should be taking in rail transportation. In the opinion of the task force, one issue mentioned earlier is fundamental to better, less costly railway service and a more effective railway system. That is the issue of usage of the existing railway infrastructure.

For the most part, the required railway infrastructure is in place in Ontario but, because of proprietary restrictions on each of the lines, this infrastructure is not necessarily used to its greatest advantage. Rail is the only form of transport where the basic travelled right of way is generally for the exclusive use of owner-operators.

We have an intricate network of streets and highways in this province which can be used by any motor vehicle meeting the regulations. Our canals and lake corridors are open to all marine vessels, and our airport facilities are provided for the common use of competing airlines. This common use of infrastructure results in the greatest amount of service at the lowest possible cost and avoids redundancy and overbuilding of the system.

While some have suggested that amalgamation and nationalization of the two major railway companies would be in the public good, the task force has never viewed such a recommen-

dation favourably. Usage of the track is another matter. As we have said in our report, it is not a question of ownership of the lines, but rather a question of who is allowed to use them and under what conditions.

There seems no valid reason why the railway lines cannot remain with an existing ownership and still, through federal regulations, be made available, as is the highway system, to any operator or agency who wants to use them.

A report prepared in 1978 by CP Consulting Services and Canalog Logistics Limited concluded that, while several operating problems are associated with the concept of joint track usage, "none of these problems are considered to be insoluble." We realize that shared track usage would present additional traffic control considerations, but we are also convinced that with a co-operative attitude on the part of the railways and proper forward planning and scheduling any problems would be minimal.

There are numerous opportunities for improved service, reduced costs and minimized land-use impact with the concept of joint or shared use of track. Many Ontario municipalities are served by two or more rail lines reaching into or through the heart of a town or city. With shared use, service could be minimized or eliminated on one or more of the lines, and all the railway companies could serve the municipality's needs through the most strategically located corridor. This would not only reduce the traffic and environmental disruption, but would open up abandoned urban corridors for further development.

In the major intercity corridors, several types of rationalization are possible, once the concept of shared usage has been accepted. In fact, once the concept is accepted, a completely different type of attitude towards joint and co-operative railway planning can take place, with potential cost savings and service improvements for all who are involved.

One form of rationalization is the piling on of all suitable traffic on a selected rail line in a corridor. The resulting increased revenues could then support a much higher level of capital improvement, such as electrification, double-tracking, curve-easing or advanced signalling than the traffic could justify when assigned to two or more separated lines.

For instance, a consequence of this concentration of traffic on one line might be the opportunity to abandon one or more of the other little-used lines or to reduce the required maintenance for savings in operating expenses. Rather than abandoning one line in a corridor for the sake of concentrating traffic on another parallel line, with shared use the potential exists for differentiation of traffic on two or more parallel lines.

I mentioned this earlier, and I will discuss it in greater detail in a few moments. There is a basic conflict between light, rapid passenger trains and slow, heavy freight trains. Shared use provides the opportunity to concentrate passenger service on one line and freight service on a parallel line in a particular corridor, thus avoiding the conflicts created between the two types of services.

Variations in this type of operation are possible. For instance, lighter and faster freight services could be assigned to the passenger line, concentrating the heavier and slower freight on the other. The passenger line, thus relieved of the passage of heavy freight loads, could be maintained at an appropriate level with a much lower maintenance expenditure.

Another possibility in the case of parallel but single tracks of two separate railway companies would be to operate the tracks as a set of one-way pairs and obtain increased capacity without double-tracking either of the lines. A further major benefit is obvious: each railway company would be enabled to take the shortest route from shipper to destination.

There are many opportunities to be explored, with the most appropriate solutions dependent upon the many variables, such as track availability and types of service in the specific corridor. Without agreement on the concept of shared usage, none of these opportunities will be possible.

Southern Ontario is particularly rich in duplicate facilities and consequently in opportunities for specialization and rationalization. As an example, there are no fewer than five through tracks on three route alignments between Toronto and Windsor.

To sum up, the issue of track usage is fundamental to a more efficient deployment of rail services on the existing system. Implementation of shared usage will require federal regulations and a new co-operative attitude on the part of the railway. There is considerable urgency in this matter. If we are to proceed with high-speed passenger service and electrification of some lines in the Windsor-Quebec City corridor, then it is essential that a considerable amount of planning and consolidation be done

so that capital expenditures can be made on the most appropriate lines for the maximum benefit to all users.

4:10 p.m.

I would like now to turn for a moment to the major conflict noted earlier which exists between passenger and freight services in this country. This is the issue of the weight of individual freight cars.

Within the task force, we came to the point where we referred to this particular problem by its descriptive title, "lighter is better." From briefs received, and other sources, the task force learned that the railways' preoccupation with the movement of profitable freight has led not only to a lamentable decline in passenger service but also to a toleration of rough track that makes it impossible to offer the public a modern comfortable passenger service at any but the most uncompetitive speed.

Two causes of rough track can be blamed. First, repeated passage of heavy wheel loads and, second, the lack of close attention to track between periodic work by highly mechanized track gangs. Evidently the railways can and do tolerate rail misalignment and surface defects as the price they are prepared to pay for the gains in productivity that high-capacity cars can achieve. And the price is high, since it includes accelerated wear and, despite reduced speed, an accident rate that is excessive by international standards.

There are difficulties enough in Canada in maintaining true running surfaces in spite of frost heave and other forces in the subgrade without the added difficulties provided by the heavy pounding of 100-ton car freight trains.

At present, there appears to be insufficient incentive for the railways to further strengthen their track structure. Rails used on North American main lines are already among the heaviest in the world. Although the supporting structure of ties and rail fastenings may lack the integrity of systems in use overseas, the problem is basically one of loading.

The permitted axle load for freight cars in North America has risen from 22 to 33 tons in relatively few years and now equals that allowed locomotives. By contrast, on other continents, axle loads exceeding 25 tons are rare, except for those isolated lines hauling a single commodity like iron ore which are operated in Australia, Liberia and elsewhere on the American model.

As well, to relieve excessive loading on the inner rail at low freight train speeds, the superelevation of many curves has had to be flattened.

Some commentators addressing the growing evidence of long-term extra costs associated with running 100-ton cars are advising a return to the earlier 80-ton standard. Others are expecting a technical fix through improved suspension that will moderate the forces exerted on the track by the larger vehicles.

However, I think it is important to appreciate that the safe and comfortable operation of high-speed passenger trains over the same tracks as are used by large numbers of 100-ton capacity cars, the so-called jumbo cars, is severely impeded. Passenger trains running over the same track are not only subject to the shocks and vibration that the damage and wear by freight produces and the resultant passenger discomfort but also must slow to freight speeds to negotiate curves that have been flattened for the slower-moving freight trains.

The task force was especially concerned about the impact of these constraints upon future high-speed passenger developments in the Windsor-Quebec City corridor, the most intensively used corridor in Canada.

Not all weight-related problems stem from jumbo freight cars. Concern was expressed to the task force that the LRC—light, rapid, comfortable—trains on order for Via Rail use, may not be permitted to operate at the speeds of which they are mechanically capable; that is, at least at 125 miles per hour. Although the LRC locomotive will have an axle load about three tons lighter than a standard diesel locomotive, those locomotives are not used at speeds exceeding 80 miles per hour in regular service. Also, the LRC's unsprung mass is high relative to high-speed practice overseas, and this characteristic is harsh on track.

What seems to be needed, especially if railways are to be expected to assume a larger and more effective role in Canada's principal passenger corridor, is a change in philosophy regarding weight of equipment. There is convincing evidence all around that lighter is better, and it would appear that, although North American conditions are distinctive, there are signs of a shift in thinking of which the new lightweight AEM-7 electric locomotive for the US northeast corridor may be the forerunner.

As I have said previously, there are many changes and improvements required if we are to encourage large numbers of the travelling public to get the train habit rather than using less energy efficient forms of travel. Passenger train service has to become faster, more convenient and more reliable than it is at the present time.

In the Windsor-Quebec City corridor, faster speeds will be essential if Via Rail is going to attract business people away from the airlines or out of their private cars. In many cases the working person will be able to make effective use of his time on trains to continue reading or writing or discussing issues associated with his business. He can do it in comfortable, spacious surroundings and in a relaxed atmosphere. However, if the journey is too slow and the travel time too long, then this important advantage is dissipated.

Travel time in this corridor can be reduced by attacking the problem on many fronts. First of all, we should have a target for overall passenger train speeds of about 125 miles per hour. Depending on where you are travelling in the corridor today, operating speeds average between 40 and 75 miles per hour. The British have operated some of their services at up to 160 miles per hour, but have indicated to us that the additional costs required to achieve 160, over and above the costs to operate at 125, are not worth the few additional passengers attracted to the faster service. In other words, at speeds over 125 miles per hour the operator starts to experience diminishing returns.

New generation passenger trains will be required to operate in comfort at sustained speeds of 125 miles per hour without inflicting unacceptable damage to the track. We hope the new light rapid comfortable train will be able to fulfil these expectations. But if it cannot, then the federal government and the railway industry should be concentrating on early modification or new designs to meet this challenge.

Early decisions will have to be made to determine whether an existing or new line, or a combination of both, is the most appropriate for high speed service in the corridor. Options such as rationalization of traffic, which I discussed earlier, and new or dedicated rights of way will have to be investigated. Where existing track is to be used, many modifications will be required to remove flattened curves and other physical impediments to high speed.

Even if we have the trains with high speed capacity, we will not be able to achieve these higher speeds without positive separation of road and rail traffic at all crossings on whatever land is chosen for high speed service. With higher speeds and the inherent critical safety factors, we will no longer be able to trust the usual flashing lights and barriers. We will need an accelerated program for grade separation of all heavy traffic crossings in the corridor.

For those lower volume crossings, we will require installation of new assured barrier protection. This latter type of protection may require some considerable research and development, but I am confident that our Canadian engineering and research community will be able to produce a failsafe barrier which will prevent vehicle and public access to the tracks prior to the approach of high speed trains.

These changes will not happen overnight, but we must start the planning now if we are to achieve high speed rail passenger service in Canada's major corridor in the near future. In the shorter term, we must take incremental steps to higher effective speeds and more time-reliable services in this important corridor. In order to remove the problem of interference from slower moving freight, passenger trains need to be given legal track priority where both services are using the same lines. In the USA, Amtrak already has this legal authority.

Not only must we shorten elapsed travel times, but we must make rail travel and access more convenient for the travelling public. Train travel is only part of what should be an integrated transportation system in Ontario. The province needs to take steps to encourage co-ordinated scheduling between and within the bus and rail modes, and to assist municipalities in the establishment of multimodal stations. Such stations would allow direct interconnections between the various forms of travel, including the local transit system, and provide many other services such as rental cars, taxis and restaurants for the traveller.

There is a very successful intermodal station of this nature in the north and the representative is here today.

4:20 p.m.

In northern Ontario, neither local needs nor the needs of the long distance cross-country traveller are being adequately served by the existing transcontinental trains. The heavy train, with its complement of staff and services, which are not needed by the short distance traveller, is too unwieldy and costly an instrument to provide effective cost-efficient local service, even as a byproduct of its transcontinental function. The sheer length of the route through northern Ontario requires that the train must travel through many communities very late at night or early in the morning, times hardly conducive to local access.

As I mentioned earlier, the task force is recommending that the transcontinental service be redesigned as a superior cross-Canada

heritage trip and that a local service be developed to serve the needs of the northern communities along the transcontinental corridors.

The expense to the public of the present transcontinental service is substantial. In fact, it accounts for some 65 per cent of all passenger rail costs. Part of these high costs are a result of the number of train sets required to ensure daily service from both directions all year around and over such a long distance. These costs are also aggravated by the twin routes taken.

If the transcontinental is to be preserved for long distance, heritage, tourist and vacation travellers, then the possibility of reduced frequencies could lead to considerable cost savings. Schedules could be set to cater to the peaks in travel demand with only intermittent service provided in the off-peak seasons without destroying the market potential for the transcontinental.

In addition to the transcontinental service, rail has the potential, if properly marketed, to service various tourism and recreation areas within the province. Some of this potential is already being tapped by such services as Algoma Central's Agawa Canyon tour and by our own Ontario Northland's Polar Bear Express. Via Rail also markets weekend packages to Toronto and other locations in its high demand corridors.

We encourage these efforts but there are other markets on rail lines not presently serviced by passenger rail or packaged as tourist destinations. The task force recommends that the province investigate the demands for and feasibility of providing passenger rail service to selected high potential tourist destinations in Ontario. In particular, we suggest that a demonstration service be operated from Toronto to the four seasons Collingwood-Wasaga Beach area.

The province has been promoting and funding recreational development in this area for some time with the result that it is fast becoming a year-round resort area offering a variety of activities catering to many different tastes. The market is there and rail can provide a safer mode of travel in the winter and ease highway congestion to the north in the summer.

As part of our desire to see passenger rail in this province become more convenient and co-ordinated within a total transportation system, we see the need to strengthen and restore our cross-border rail links with our American neighbours to the south. Services used to be there but they have dwindled to the point where Amtrak services, if any, die on their side of the border and Via Rail services have followed a similar fate on the Ontario side.

Until this week, there has been no attempt to interconnect the services or even ensure that the schedules match. Usually, an expensive trans-border taxi ride plus a long wait was necessary if the passenger intended to continue his journey. Now we are seeing the first signs of a change in philosophy concerning USA-Ontario links.

Last Monday, I was privileged to participate in the inaugural ceremonies of the new Via-Amtrak Maple Leaf train service directly connecting Toronto to New York City via Niagara Falls and Buffalo. I am quite certain that without the intervention of the province and other interested members of the public, this service would not have been provided. Now that it is here, Via Rail has demonstrated considerable enthusiasm for the concept. It has done an excellent job of marketing the service and as part of the package has established a circle fare for a Toronto-New York-Montreal-Toronto trip with stops allowed in between for only $13 more than the normal round-trip Toronto-New York fare. This should have considerable appeal to offshore tourists and domestic travellers alike.

With the increases in energy cost and significant improvement in the speed, convenience and reliability of passenger services, I am confident that we are at the beginning of a major resurgence in passenger rail usage in this province and in Canada. Some of these changes will require government funds. However, I am confident that the benefits of reduced petroleum dependency and improved service to the people of this province will more than justify the cost.

On the freight side of the railway business, which accounts for 85 per cent of all rail revenue and nearly all railway profit, the task force has concentrated its recommendations to this government in two major areas. One is a strong thrust to encourage increased use of rail for the movement of goods and commodities as a means of achieving significant energy savings.

In order to foster co-operation between various forms of freight transport and effect a shift to rail for the longer distance trips, the task force has recommended that the province support the increased use of container and piggyback services by: (a) providing loans or tax incentives as an inducement to the early construction of additional modern, intermodal terminals; (b) providing convenient and direct highway access to all intermodal terminals; and

(c) negotiating with railway and trucking officials to develop co-operative intermodal services for the mutual benefit of those operators and their customers.

Additional use of rail can also be encouraged by alleviating problems of availability of rail services and shortage of cars experienced by some of the smaller shippers and certain segments of the resource industry.

Not only can the province provide tax incentives, grants or loans for private rail sidings or special purpose rolling stock, but the task force has also recommended that the Ontario government give consideration to the establishment of a provincial freight car pool. These cars could be leased from the government by those industries experiencing intermittent car shortages.

The second thrust is to have the government play a more forceful and significant role in protecting the interests of the shippers in this province. In this area, we are concerned that users of rail services, especially captive shippers, have access to a short, effective rate appeal process. The present procedure is so unwieldy, potentially time-consuming and expensive that only five cases have been decided since the enactment of the National Transportation Act in 1967.

Any shipper who believes that the railways are charging excessive rates is at a strong disadvantage, since the shipper has no way of knowing what it costs the railway to ship his product. Without this knowledge and because of the expense involved, it is not practical for small shippers to appeal any perceived injustice.

The province can play a strong role on behalf of the users of the rail system by monitoring freight rates, identifying cases of rate discrimination and intervening with the railways and others. In this regard, the task force recommends that railway costing information, now available to the Canadian Transport Commission and Transport Canada, be made freely and easily accessible to representatives of the provincial government.

In order to ensure that rail freight rates are established competitively between the major railway companies, we are also recommending that these companies become subject to the Combines Investigation Act; that they no longer be allowed to set joint rates behind closed doors. Many of the railway charges may in fact be set at a fair level now, but there is a strong perception that they are not.

To sum up, while we want to see an expanded use of rail for freight transport because of its inherent energy efficiency, we also want to ensure that the shippers in this province are being treated fairly and are receiving the best service possible.

I would like to discuss a subject which has aroused considerable public interest, and I am, of course, referring to the subject of railway electrification, a subject which the task force was directed to consider because of Ontario's abundant electrical resources.

4:30 p.m.

There has been considerable discussion and much written about railway electrification in Canada for a great many years. The railways have consistently acknowledged that electrification is something that would be nice to have but commercially unattractive. I think that was probably true during the days of cheap coal and more recently, following conversion to diesel locomotives, of cheap oil. Now the rising cost of oil fuel provides the railways with an incentive to conserve and even replace oil as a main source of energy.

Studies done for the task force suggest that electrification of a number of routes in Ontario is now economically viable. The whole matter of electrification could be left to the commercial judgement of the railways except for one factor of vital and increasing importance. That is government's strategic stake in achieving energy self-sufficiency. Railway electrification of the right sort can so transform railway operations and the service offered that traffic can be attracted from less energy efficient modes without the necessity of regulation. In the end, much more oil can be saved by electrification than the mere consumption by the railways themselves.

In addition to this external bonus—that is, the benefit to the economy at large—there is also the benefit to society and the environment of faster, cleaner, quieter rail service. Electrification serves the goal of the newer trains, which are lighter and more responsive to traffic control. In certain conditions one electric locomotive can do the work of two diesels with consequent reduction in total train weight, the requirement for energy and the wear on track. In other conditions, for example commuter service, locomotives can be dispensed with entirely for still greater savings in capital and operating costs.

Railways perform many different transportation tasks. The traffic flow on any line is formed of a unique mix of commodities and trip pur-

poses, and some of these mixes gain more from electrification than others. Where speed is valued, electrification thrives. Thus, where rapid economical acceleration of passenger trains from numerous station stops is sought, electrification is the key.

That is not to exclude electrification of heavy freight services. It merely means that the merit of such electrification will need to rest on large volumes of traffic sufficient to ensure a short payback period with oil saving an external bonus. However, for commuter services and for high speed passenger trains, electrification can be the key to new thresholds of performance and new levels of patronage with widespread benefits.

So it is that the government of Ontario has committed itself to electrifying GO Transit's lakeshore corridor and the task force has urged in its report that investigation of simultaneous electrification in the Windsor-Quebec City corridor be pressed forward as soon as possible. This will require identification and sharing of costs and benefits among a number of parties in addition to the railways. With co-operation on all sides I believe we can proceed rapidly with these projects and soon realize the benefits of improved rail service and reduced petroleum dependency.

In my earlier remarks I stressed the need for accelerated rail research and development by the Canadian railways and their suppliers and also for greatly strengthened support by the federal government for rail-specific research covering both the industry and the scientific community. The task force has gone further to urge that the province should make its own very specific contribution towards advancing railway technical and operating practice and increasing its provincial export capability.

The opportunity for this initiative lies in the fact that within the province are several geographic clusters of establishments which could complement one another's technological skills, given the challenge and supplemented by provincial services. These establishments include universities, research establishments, equipment designers and manufacturers and the railway plant itself.

Outside the Toronto area there are at least four such clusters which the task force believes should be encouraged for development as rail centres of excellence, specialized yet complementary. In two of the cases there could be the beneficial transfer of new ideas between the fields of urban rail transit and of railways proper.

In the Kingston area of eastern Ontario, just a fast train ride from either Toronto or Montreal, headquarters of the major railways, are two key establishments. The Canadian Institute of Guided Ground Transportation at Queen's University is Canada's pre-eminent rail-oriented "think tank," which contributed several excellent specialized papers to the task force. Also in the area is the Urban Transportation Development Corporation's transit research test facility which has gained world leadership for Ontario in intermediate capacity transit systems. Plans for expansion there have been announced under the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program. I saw Mr. Kirk Foley, the director, here earlier today.

In southwestern Ontario there is capability in the London-St. Thomas area, where the General Motors diesel plant is located, for new initiatives and accelerated production of locomotives of advanced design and of specialized freight cars.

From Thunder Bay there have already come a variety of passenger cars and transit vehicles, a tribute to Hawker Siddeley's design and production teams. The need for reduction in train weight for minimizing fuel consumption places high value on the lightweight structural techniques developed by this company. The province should help stabilize production levels and ensure an adequate well-trained work force in co-operation with education authorities.

The property, plant and skills of the Ontario Northland Railway, centred in North Bay, make it a prime candidate for the fourth centre of excellence. Unencumbered by continental traffic, the ONR spans a wide range of ground conditions and climate and has cars of varied weights and sizes. It has a tradition of engineering skills and adaptability and could well serve as an operating test bed for a variety of innovations. Among these are intermodal operations, since the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission, an agency of the province, operates bus, air and marine services as well as rail. There is no reason for our railways to continue to use technology developed elsewhere when such resource potential is available to us in our own province.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the Grange commission of inquiry was set up by the federal government to investigate the events surrounding the Mississauga derailment and to make recommendations which will help prevent similar occurrences in the future. Contrary to one radio news report I heard on Tuesday, that was

not the sole mission of our task force. As I mentioned earlier, our mandate was to look at all issues affecting rail transportation in this province. Nevertheless, a very real concern was railway safety. While the Grange inquiry was limited to the details of the specific accident, we were not so restricted, and as a result have made broad recommendations about all aspects of railway safety.

We were concerned with the lack of enforcement of existing safety regulations. We were concerned about the transportation of dangerous materials. And we were concerned about the number of all types of railway accidents that occur in Ontario. The safety record of the railways in this country would obviously not be tolerated in the airline industry nor, in fact, would it be tolerated by railways and governments in other offshore industrialized countries of the world. In Canada, indeed in North America, railway accidents seem to be accepted by the railways as an integral part of railway operations.

This is just not good enough. The Canadian Transport Commission has adequate regulatory power to ensure safer railway operations. However, they must play a stronger role in exercising that power. The CTC must take full responsibility for increased inspection and enforcement of their own regulations and no longer rely on self-regulation by the railways.

With respect to dangerous goods, the task force recommends that these commodities be consolidated in special trains which would operate under control orders specifying the routes to be taken and the schedule to be followed at restricted operating speeds. We have also recommended that, wherever possible, these dangerous goods trains be detoured around population centres, and that priority be given to upgrading track and control equipment in the dangerous goods corridors.

4:40 p.m.

Infrastructure improvements, additional control devices such as hot box detectors and a significant increase in CTC inspection and enforcement programs should help to reduce the number of railway derailments and train-to-train collisions. The federal government must sustain its grade separation program with increased funding levels if we are to achieve a similar reduction in grade crossing accidents. There were 257 such accidents in 1979, and that figure is too high.

Spectacular railway accidents, such as occurred in Mississauga, have made planners and the general public highly sensitive to the impact that railways can have upon land uses adjacent to railway corridors. Yet railways are and will continue to be part of our urban environment.

Effective land use planning must take into account all of the elements which might impact upon a community. In the future, railway infrastructure and operations have to be given more serious consideration as an integral part of the process. Undoubtedly, this will require more communication and understanding on the part of the province, the railways and the municipalities.

At the same time, if we are to have any effective control over safety and other environmental impacts that the railways may have upon their neighbours, then the railways must become subject to existing provincial legislation and regulations. The railways fall under the power of the federal government. Therefore, any compliance with provincial regulations we have now is strictly voluntary on their part.

In contrast, trucking companies, which serve many Canadian provinces, have to comply with the regulations of each province through which they pass. Since the rights of Ontario citizens are protected by provincial as well as federal legislation, there is no reason why the railways should be exempt from provincial legislation any more than any other business in Ontario.

I have gone on at some length because I wished to elaborate on many of the views held by the task force for the members of this House. Railways are vitally important to the economy and standard of living in this country and in this province, even more so than they are to our American neighbours to the south. Based on the number of passenger and freight miles of service provided in Canada, we are at least 50 per cent more dependent on rail travel on a per capita basis than is the case in the United States. And of course, our system is in better overall condition.

Our railways are doing a good job, but as the task force has said in its report, there is considerable room for improvement. Implementation of many of the recommendations in the final report will require new thrusts and a co-operative sharing of intellectual, physical and financial resources between governments, railways and users. The principal concern is no longer one of jurisdiction between two governments. It is the challenge of working together with all parties in a co-operative manner to achieve both provincial and federal goals.

The final report of the Ontario Task Force on

Provincial Rail Policy indicates bold new directions and looks at the roles which rail can and will play in this province's future. Some of these recommendations will require financial commitments or legislative adjustments. Others will simply require changes in attitude. I believe we are about to experience a resurgence in rail usage in this country. That does not mean we will be restoring rail as it once was. That is a romantic concept and impractical. On the contrary, our efforts must be concentrated forcefully, vigorously upon the system as it will be.

Mr. Speaker, I assure you that rail will emerge as the new transportation mode of the future.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, I would like to observe, if I might digress for a moment, that the member for St. David (Mrs. Scrivener) was a relatively quiet member in the last Parliament, and we can only assume from the rather lengthy dissertation presented to us today that she was saving it all up.

I think it is rather prophetic that I, with a name such as Van Horne, which is well known in the rail world, would follow the member for St. David. I can only observe that my ancestor very likely could have laid about 10 miles of track during the time that it took for that dissertation to be made to us. The member for St. David, however, did make a complete and commendable presentation. I would urge her to speak more in this Parliament because, if she did, perhaps the presentations would be a little shorter.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to begin, as is the tradition it seems, by commending and congratulating you, the member for Peterborough, and the member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz) on your and his appointment to the chair.

I will continue, as some of the other opposition members have done, by being critical of the government for its intolerable attitude towards members of the opposition and, I would submit, to the citizens of Ontario in turn. We have seen this attitude in the last two weeks through actions and statements made mainly by the Premier (Mr. Davis) and members of his cabinet.

Government is, or at least can be, a human process. Each member in this House had to go through a selection process to be nominated and another selection process to be elected. Each of us is now in this House. It is a pyramid process, and we are at the top of a pyramid, 125 of us, attempting to serve and meet the needs of over eight million Ontarians.

All members, at least in theory, are equal in terms of our responsibilities and our privileges in this House. We know, of course, that we are groups by virtue of our party system, and this grouping process sees the largest group as the one that directs the legislative and monetary policies of our province. Herein is the source of the intolerable attitude that bothers me, and that is the treatment of smaller groups, or the opposition parties if you will. That, I submit, is a treatment that we can get along without.

I submit to you that the government is capable of being tolerable, and I call as witness to that statement the rapport and tangible results of the minority governments of 1975 and 1977. They had all members in those two parliaments to try to work things out and, in fact, during those five and a half years of minority government they were able to do so.

Now that we are back to a majority government, that spirit of common goal and working together seems to have disappeared. We have been told more than once by the Premier, the government House leader and a few other members of the cabinet about the reality of March 19. This arrogant reminder is vanity at its worst. Such haughtiness, such priggishness, is reflective of an egotistical contempt for not only opposition members but also the ridings we represent and, more critical, it is a condemnation of the parliamentary system.

I implore the government, I implore the Premier, to raise the level of debate, to raise the level of decency and to get on with the important job of meeting the challenges of the 1980s by working above the level of partisan politics we have seen in the last few weeks.

We are all aware of the specifics or content in the throne speech. I will make comments on the significant ones in a few moments. But I also submit that we are sorely aware of what is not in the throne speech. The forecast for the future of the average Ontarian is a sad one indeed. Our food and housing costs will continue to increase. Our petroleum supply will be unstable but the cost will increase. Our farmers will continue to struggle to survive the high cost of farming and will continue to face the prospect of bankruptcy.

4:50 p.m.

We do not find any solutions to these crises in the throne speech. We do not find any reference either to any definitive action or plan on severance pay or other problems that were the main areas of concern for the select committee on plant shutdowns and employee adjustment. We

do not find any reference to the needs and rights of women in the work place or day care improvements.

We find precious little to address itself to meeting the needs of northern Ontario, short of a very brief comment on page eight of the throne speech on seedling cultivation centres in northern Ontario and some discussion with private mining and forestry companies about machinery et cetera. That is pretty short shrift for northern Ontario.

The throne speech in general is a disappointment. It will long be remembered for what it did not say as much as for what it did. Let us look briefly at what it did say.

The government states on page two, "We seek to protect human and democratic rights." If they are serious, I submit that they start right here and now in this House by being a little less arrogant.

The government then makes reference to the constitution and indicates how much in concert it is with the federal government. I cannot help but marvel how easily our Premier and his government get into and then out of bed with the federal government whenever it seems to be convenient.

When we talk about the constitution or the need for a first ministers' conference to attack inflation, we hear glowing words of co-operation. But if we talk about agriculture, the Minister of Agriculture and Food in Ontario, if I can use a poor pun, screams "foul" and blames the federal government for all of Ontario's problems.

I would like to ask—and I hope the minister takes the time to read these few comments—how it is that the agriculture ministers in the other nine provinces of Canada seem to get along very well with the federal government but, when it comes to Ontario getting along, it does not seem to work out.

The main specifics in the throne speech are not really new. The Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program, as we are all aware, is really a reshaping of a variety of programs that have been discussed or planned for years. In a sense, what we are getting is a new paint job on an old car.

The office of procurement policy to buy Canadian and to foster Canadian manufacturing—that is commendable. But do we have to set up another bureauracy to do what the various ministries in this province should already be doing?

We are going to go back to a greater emphasis on electricity. Surely the people of Ontario must really wonder how serious the government is when it makes statements such as that. The use of electricity has been an off-again, on-again policy in this province for the last two decades.

Let me give one small instance to prove that statement. From the year 1969 to 1975 I served as a commissioner on our public utilities commission in the city of London. When I first sat on the commission there was a great deal of pressure put on us to encourage the use of electricity in terms of house heating. The theme was "all-electric": Get those contractors building those homes with all-electric heat. We did our level best to try to co-operate, fools that we were. We found out when we got rolling that the people who bought these homes could not afford to pay the bills. The program was not thought out very carefully, and so we got off the electricity kick.

We have been off and on again, as I say, for almost two decades here in Ontario. I hope now, when the government is coming back with the emphasis on electricity, that it has thought it out. I can assure the government that we as members of the opposition are going to question and pull apart all the presentations made on this theme as best we can, because it demands a very critical eye.

We also note that the government is going to expand the training in business and industry initiative of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, and we hear that the government is going to develop a community counselling program to tap the resources of young people and guide them towards worthwhile and productive jobs. What is the government trying to tell us? How long is it going to be before they really call it the way it is? Is this new program another guise for remodelling the antiquated apprenticeship program? Is it really going to be an attempt to dress up the old student guidance information program? What is it going to be? What are they trying to do?

I submit that the government in Ontario has fumbled the ball in terms of the apprenticeship program and in terms of what it has not done in directing young people into proper or adequate careers, and I hope that what we read in the throne speech on this theme is something more than the window dressing we have been given for the last few years by this government.

I am pleased to see the reference made to the biotechnology joint venture with Labatt's, a corporate giant in my community, the home base of Labatt's being London, Ontario, now it has spread right across North America. But

Labatt's is a source of pride to all Londoners for the treatment of its employees and for its forward approach to marketing and research. We really do hope that this new venture pays dividends.

It must be noted that Ontario's percentage contribution to this biotechnology effort is 20 per cent, with the remaining 80 per cent being split 30-50 between Labatt's and the Canada Development Corporation. So although Ontario might take a bow in a sense for what it is doing here, I submit that this 20 per cent should be watched carefully and that we should be watching it with a view to what more can Ontario do in the area of research and development, a critical need for us here in this province.

I can only hope that the government's efforts referred to in the throne speech in terms of auto parts technology and microelectronics will be dealt with in perhaps a more expedient way than the approach we have taken to the biotechnology project already mentioned. I hope too that the involvement of this province will be more than a 20 per cent commitment or involvement.

The government also talks with considerable pride of its commitment to public transport, and we just heard a long dissertation on that. I am not going to quarrel with that report; it is a very complete report. Surely, however, the time has come to take the various themes outlined there and to put some direction to them.

There are questions that can be raised, questions that were obvious to all of us as the member for St. David read her speech, questions on the cost of the various recommendations, the time line if those recommendations are to be implemented and the effects those recommendations will have on the various communities along the existing lines and any other new lines.

What about the involvement with the federal government, which is a major theme in that report? I submit that concerns such as these should be addressed by an all-party committee of this House and not simply left to the will of the government.

The throne speech gives lipservice only to the environmental concerns of all of us in this House. We all understand the need for a world-class facility for the treatment and safe disposal of industrial waste. But we also understand the need for locating such a facility in an area that has been carefully and fully selected, one that will not flood periodically.

I implore the government to reconsider the Cayuga site. Why, I ask, should we compromise number one farm land, the best we have, for a facility such as this, one that was not even included in the original list of sites, 16 or 17, presented to the government by the research company that looked into it? One has to be a little sceptical if one is on this side of the House and offer that the possibility for Cayuga being chosen was that it happens to be represented by a member of our party.

5 p.m.

There are other topics in the throne speech that provide very little detail. For example, we can only hope that the terms of reference for the select committee on pensions will be adequate for a full discussion of that very critical theme. We can only hope that the specifics of the newly announced mental health co-ordinator's role will be adequate. We can only hope for the adequacy of the specifics that we will eventually be given on such things as the Workmen's Compensation Board legislation, the Children's Law Reform Act, the career development plan for native people, the response to the Krever commission and other items dealt with in a very limited way in the throne speech.

When I say we can only hope, I must return to my opening comments on government attitude and supplement these comments with a few examples of how my friends opposite work, why they make me sceptical, and why I say these things. Let me use two examples to prove my point, one from the Thirty-First Parliament just past and one from the recent election campaign.

The government's arrogant attitude to the opposition and, therefore, to over half the people in the province who voted Liberal and NDP, or who did not vote at all, I guess should not be a surprise to us. This same arrogance led the government to be less than completely forthright with the citizens of Ontario prior to this last election.

The examples I use to support this very serious and damning allegation are found in an editorial of the Globe and Mail from March 13, 1981, which refers to the Premier selecting only parts of a comment made by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Smith) regarding world oil prices:

"Mr. Davis used only the parts of this statement that appear in italics. The error was pointed out to him, the context was supplied. Again this week Mr. Davis accused the Liberals of supporting world oil prices. The Ontario Liberals have never supported world oil prices. In the five years since the statement above was

released, the Liberals have developed their oil policy further. Last Monday, Dr. Smith described some of it."

The editorial concluded: "Misquoting or quoting out of context is hardly an admirable technique in electioneering. At this stage in the campaign it is unacceptable."

Another example of government lack of forthrightness I choose to use is related to a topic in the throne speech which is a repetition of a topic during the thirty-first Parliament. I ask those new members to the House to keep their ears open for this. I refer, of course, to the proposed special bill to provide for review and appeal procedures with respect to investigation of complaints against police in Metro Toronto.

When this topic was addressed in the last Legislature, the opposition parties suggested some amendments. These amendments were not appealing to the government; so they proceeded to attack us by reshaping our arguments. This charade was uncovered and criticized in a June 27, 1980, editorial, in the Globe and Mail again, headed, "The Party With The Halo." That article reads in part:

" 'Gentlemen,' said Mr. Davis, 'in our parliamentary system we in government refer to the Liberals and NDP as our opposition. But I submit that in the case of the bill I have just been discussing, the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party of this province were in fact operating not just in opposition to my government but in opposition to the wishes of the vast majority of our citizens who respect our police and the standards of law they represent and maintain in Ontario.' "

This is dishonest and appalling. The Premier of Ontario has characterized the opposition's objection to a lax bill as a crusade against the police. He has by single-minded association painted the Liberal and New Democratic members as people with "no confidence and trust in the police" who hold opinions contrary to those of "the thinking men and women of Ontario."

In short, he has jettisoned all pretence of respect for members of the Legislature with views contrary to his own and chosen instead to misrepresent those views in a shallow and malicious appeal for votes. The sight of the Premier of Ontario stooping to such tactics is nothing short of repugnant.

These two examples of arrogance are not accidental, isolated cases. They are, in my view, part of an ongoing attack on the integrity of opposition members of this House. We saw such evidence again from the Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy (Mr. Welch) in his stinging attack in the wind-up speech last December. We saw it two days ago in the response of the member for Scarborough Centre and the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea) in his rather haughty reply to my new colleague the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria). We saw it in the Premier's reply to the question just the other day on the Nakina fire tragedy.

In regard to that tragedy, I could go on at length about the terrible ways in which the parents of those unfortunate young people who died were treated by ministry officials. The attitude of the government carries over to some of its officials, it would seem. The end result is not just sadness and shock at the deaths but also anger and frustration at the events following this tragedy, events that were orchestrated by ministry officials.

As we proceed with the work of this thirty-second Parliament, I urge the government to listen to the opposition members. We each have a responsibility to speak on behalf of our constituents. I certainly will speak to the needs of the citizens of London North—all of them. The government must remember it is governing for all of them.

I also urge the government to listen carefully to the critics in the opposition parties. Our parliamentary system with its checks and balances allows and, yes, even demands in-depth debate between cabinet members and members opposite. Critics are often the voice of those citizens who have not been able to be heard through the bureaucracy or by government.

I hope these few words of mine and the words of my colleagues who are responding to the throne speech do not fall on deaf ears. The job can be done without arrogance. I challenge the Premier and the Conservative caucus to get on with the job without resorting to the tactics and attitudes we have seen and deplored in the last few weeks. Ontario deserves better than that.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to participate in the throne speech debate. I want to take the opportunity to wish the new Speaker of the House well in his efforts to keep the Speaker's role as one of serving the Legislative and not being a servant of the party in power. I think the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) played a major and enlightened role in bringing a new dignity and independence to the role of the Speaker of the House.

I want to impose for just a moment and outline a personal beef I have, one that I am sure

is held by many members of this House. It is a matter that was not resolved by the previous Speaker. It is one of the things I do not think he really tackled and it was certainly not alluded to in the speech from the throne.

I see the new Speaker has entered the chamber. It may give you a chance or opportunity to put your stamp on this Legislative Assembly, sir.

The question of inequity in terms of the number of members and the amount of time for questions by members other than the leaders in this House is one that has to be dealt with. The amount of time and the number of supplementaries for the leaders takes up far too much time during the question period.

5:10 p.m.

The response of the government ministers and the Premier (Mr. Davis)—the Premier, I might say, is the worst offender—compounds the problem and leads to a rather silly waste of time, which I suspect is often deliberate on the part of the government of Ontario. The end result is that there are not too many days when more than two or three members from other parties get a question into the House.

I feel that two questions and two supplementaries, one for each party, are adequate on leaders' questions and that we simply have to get tough with the silliness that comes from the Premier and some of his ministers in response. There should be no more than 20 minutes for leaders' questions in this House, with the remaining 40 minutes as a minimum for the other members of the House, and I ask you, Mr. Speaker, to strike a blow for the vast majority of members in this House.

Interjections.

Mr. Mackenzie: I am hoping that some of the members opposite do come alive. I am just waiting to see if there is any hope for the 22 new back-bench members over there. We have not seen an awful lot from those in the two front rows in the five and a half years I have been here.

To return to the throne speech, while I participate with pleasure and with a real and honest desire to contribute in a positive way—obviously one that will not be agreed with by some of my other colleagues in other parties—I am also motivated, I think, by more anger than I have had in some time at the hypocrisy and shallow ineptness of this government and the sheer arrogance it displays for the voters of Ontario by laying out such a big, fat nothing in the throne speech. What we have is nothing but a hideous burp after the millions spent during the election on that insane jingle about helping keep the promise in Ontario.

We have a collection of headings that tackle little, inspire contempt and are as likely to be as nonproductive as the last so-called charter, the Bramalea charter, prior to the 1977 election. Some of those were classics, including the two trees for one, and, boy, we sure got them. You know where we got them too, Mr. Speaker.

As media exploiters and con artists, this government is a master, and all of us have to take some of the blame. Opposition politicians, the voters who normally lean our way and those employed by the various media in Ontario, reporting politically, should be ashamed of ourselves for being taken to the cleaners by this party and this government once again, and that is exactly what happened to us.

A government that has no answers, fears new thinking and suffers from an absolute arrogance that somehow or other tries to equate divine rule with the Progressive Conservative Party is almost beyond belief, and I guess we all deserve a kick in the posterior. I am not sure what we did wrong. We obviously did not shake the voters up enough in Ontario.

I am not sure what some of the others, including the media, did wrong. Maybe they were too worried about the jobs that many of them are trying to get, but they sure as blazes did not zero in on the nothing that we got from this government during the election campaign, other than jingles.

Given the tremendous emotion and public relations campaign of the Conservatives, the stress on keeping the promise in Ontario, the focus on William Davis, his appeals to his family, to small towns, to past standards and glories in Ontario and, given his success in retaining a majority, one could be excused for expecting some real action to protect and expand the referred to values in Ontario.

Indeed, the results should have jolted even the Tories a little, for with all the millions spent, including a rather blatant misuse of government advertising initiatives in Ontario which really cheapened some of the nice sounding homilies that we were getting from the Premier of Ontario—even with all of this, I noticed the Tories gained less than 100,000 voters in Ontario. The overall drop—

Mr. Brandt: How many did you make?

Mr. Mackenzie: If the member will just wait, he may learn something back there. The overall

drop in voting in Ontario was substantial, and that should concern all of us, even a party that wins the election.

What the Tories were able to do very effectively was mobilize their vote in a very calculated way, those with a vested interest in keeping the status quo and protecting the positions of the already privileged people in the province. This government has set the stage in Ontario for a tremendous leap forward in public political cynicism.

Fortunately, this party—I suppose it is one of the few small things we can take some pride from—did not lose our votes to others. The Liberals gained even less than the Tories gained, in spite of the perception that maybe this was their chance and they were the possible alternative in Ontario. What we did not do was motivate our people and they stayed home. The ground is fairly clear and tillable for a future election.

I chuckle at my colleagues to the right and I chuckle at the remarks of the Liberal leader, who talked about how it was vital and important that his party not move to the right. My God, he could not move any further; he already has the Tories to the left of him.

We have an unfortunate tilt at this time in Ontario but fortunately, probably for us, we have two parties that effectively occupy the right of the political spectrum. When that pendulum swings, I think that is when we are going to find some changes in this province.

With this sort of development, I would have expected some bold actions on problems that even Conservatives sometimes admit exist. I would have thought and hoped that the Premier would bring us some real initiatives, would labour for substantive reforms and move forward in some of the needed areas that I want to cover in this speech.

I would have hoped he would have come forward with a clear explanation of what his program and what his promises meant. In fact, the government's approach is the opposite, and I suspect we are going to see it over a good chunk of this current Parliament.

The approach is keep quiet, do little, involve yourself as little as possible, and in two or three years down the road, if a couple of issues appear to be surfacing that might bother the voters of the province, see if you can buy them off by some small action. In terms of positive planning and initiatives, it does not exist in this government.

I guess we should not have hoped for any initiatives in this speech from the throne. But instead of initiatives we got a gnat on a mouse's tail, and we do not even have a looking glass to see if it is alive or dead.

Where is the action that is necessary in the much-needed problem of housing? Interest rates are destroying the ability of the majority of our people to obtain adequate affordable housing, and the defence I have heard by the Minister of Housing (Mr. Bennett) over the last few days is enough to make anyone sick.

Suppose one buys a house today—if he is lucky enough to find it—worth $40,000. Let us take a look at two of them and see exactly what is happening to people and a few other examples I want to give from my own area. One should not try to find a $40,000 home, of course, in Toronto—particularly in Metro Toronto or even in Hamilton. Assume the down payment, over and above the mortgage. If the current three-year interest rate of 17 per cent were assumed, and hopefully it would not be, and if the mortgage term were 25 years, the monthly principal and interest is only $572 and the total cost of the house is only $172,000! Interest cost is at least 4.3 times the original mortgage cost.

One is paying $40,000, I guess, for the materials and the manufactured goods that have to go into that house and the profit of the builder possibly. One is really giving the money lenders of this province $130,000. Certainly they have been given a free reign by the Tory government in Ontario.

If you take a $50,000 mortgage, it gets even worse. With the same assumptions, the monthly principal and interest is $697—almost $700—and the total cost of the house becomes $209,000.

The cost of these two houses has increased by $64,000 over what it would have been if the mortgage had been negotiated even a year ago at the then prevailing rates. That is some idea of what young couples are letting themselves in for.

5:20 p.m.

The interest rates generally, not just the mortgage rates, in Ontario are nothing short of obscene. The clear difference between this party and the speculative entrepreneurs, both on my right and across the way, is that we feel housing must become a social right in Ontario. It must become a right and a priority in the same manner as health care, and it must be operated with the profit motive removed. Decent wages are a prerequisite, and it is legitimate to recover the actual costs of doing the job, but speculation, unwarranted profits and usurious interest rates must be eliminated.

This is the kind of hard but, I think, necessary leadership decision that has to be taken if we are going to begin the job of income redistribution in Ontario and of providing the essential services that are desperately needed by the people. Housing must not be based on whether one can afford to put a roof over one's head. And this is the kind of decision that will motivate people into taking a look at the unfortunate "I'm all right, Jack" philosophy, which greed has promoted all too freely.

Let me give a couple of minor examples of what is happening. I talked to a couple in Toronto, just two weeks ago, who have built up a reasonable down payment for a house and have been looking for one for some time. They could move to the suburbs, but their jobs are such that they feel they should be in the core area of Toronto. Prices have been going up and they have been kicking themselves for not having moved sooner.

They found a place—it was not very fancy, but they liked it—and the price was listed at $99,000. As they had done on a number previous occasions, they put in an offer that was not accepted. They went back a week later to see what had happened and found that the price had risen to $106,000. Two days later, the owners wanted to ask $110,000, but I gather there was a dispute with the real estate agent because of the way the house had been listed, and it was finally sold at $106,000. That is the kind of exploitation that is encouraged by this government.

I talked to a couple of real estate people the day before yesterday. One of them, whose only job at the moment is to act for a small investment group of 12, said the criterion of this group was "to pick up houses with existing mortgages at low rates, to buy almost anything you can at those low rates. We can carry the mortgages through the increased prices we will charge for rent. We expect to double our money in a very short period of time." That is the kind of private enterprise approach we hear from the Minister of Housing and it is a sick one.

These two real estate people did not see this matter in a social way. They were doing pretty well in their mad scramble for listings and their work for the small investment group. But they told me one of the things that was bothering them a bit was their ability to compete as a local 12-member investment group in Toronto because of the money coming in from outside. They said one of the problems is the Vancouver money, except that a lot of the Vancouver money is not Vancouver money. A good chunk of it is Hong Kong money. They also want the low mortgage rates and anything they can get, almost sight unseen, in the core of this city. It is not just here. It is happening in other places in Ontario.

I have had a number of cases in my own riding in recent days that have really disturbed me. I took a look. I quickly pulled out the Ministry of Housing public housing supply sheets for my own city, Hamilton, and noticed that in one month the need for family units—and it is a desperate need—had jumped from 612 units on the waiting list to 674. When I checked just a week ago, there were about 310 people on the list waiting for a home visit to find out whether or not they qualified for some assisted housing, let alone the 612 people on the house waiting list. That number had jumped in the month of March alone to 674 families desperately seeking some kind of accommodation—people who could not afford the more expensive housing. That is the increase in the number of people who are desperate, and it is really beginning to hurt.

Let me put it in terms of an individual example as well.There is the lady who called me from the Albion Road area who has three small boys and a girl in her early teens. She is alone, a single parent. She has an income of $593.58 mother's allowance, $150 of which is the shelter component—and we sure have to do something about the shelter components of the allowances because they are simply inadequate—regional rent subsidy of $30, family allowance of $95 and part-time work at $125. Some of the yahoos across the way would probably think that at $843.58 she was not doing too badly. It is not very much money when there are four children and a mother who has been on her own now for two years trying to get by.

She got exasperated when the rent in the unit she was in, which was at $265, was boosted to $290 when she was informed that they were turning it into a condominium operation. She made the mistake, which she admits, of giving her notice. She has had a rough enough time over the last two years, trying to make ends meet and develop a new lifestyle since the family breakup and trying to get by on that kind of income with four children. But then she started to look for housing. She went to the Hamilton housing department but she is not on the list. Also, unfortunately, at one time in the past she had got $300 behind, which has been long since paid up. So she will have a hard time even to get on the list. But if she does get on the list, she has been told that she is at least a year or two down the road.

Her eviction point happens to be today, but she has not been evicted and the notice has not been posted. So she will be there for a while until they get a court order. We have the beginning of ghettoization in some of the housing areas in the city of Hamilton, which disturbs me. What is the lowest rent she has been able to find for a three or four-bedroom unit, with the present shortage of units and the number on the waiting lists in Hamilton? The cheapest rent for an apartment that she would even consider going into was $385, and that was not much of a place because I went down to the apartment building.

That is on an income of $843.58 with every lousy cent that she is entitled to under the kind of legislation we have in this province. With the problems she has, with an order to get out, really as of today, and with no housing available, the lowest rent she can find is $385 a month. What kind of a society and what kind of priorities do we have in Ontario? Incidentally, the hydro would be on top of the $385.

When I was canvassing in the last election, I remember well the gentleman on Cannon Street who hauled me into his house and said, "I want to talk to you." And he said, "I want you to know that I am not supporting nor have I supported your party." I am not sure what he ended up doing. But he said, "One of the things that is bothering me is my own attitude." And I sort of appreciated the way it came out from him.

He said: "Do you know I thought anybody on subsidized housing or assisted housing or any form of welfare was somehow or other ripping off the system, or at least could have done better for himself? I worked hard all of my life and I developed a pension. My total income now is $10,060 for the year, so I guess I am still well off. But two or three years ago I thought I was set for life. I actually retired four years ago and the first year was pretty good and I did a bit of travelling. I have slowed up. I have stopped travelling. I have started listening to my neighbours." He is in an area where there are a lot of people who are really having problems.

5:30 p.m.

He said: "All of a sudden I realized how ill-considered have been some of my remarks and how wrong I have been. With the increased costs of this house—it is an old house—the heating costs and other costs going up, with the increased taxes I am seeing, if I try to take a trip, if I try to go back over to where I came from, just outside London, or if I try to go down south, when I see what I am going to have to pay for that trip, my $10,000 a year is not going to cover it. In another year or two with the way it is going, I am going to be one of those poor people. I should not have been raising hell about their use of government assistance. I now know that I too am going to be in trouble in a very short period of time."

I am worried about young couples—and I am sure all of the members are getting a bit of this, though there are no avalanches yet—who did take advantage of some of the housing programs and got in over their heads. Usually there were two working then but sometimes now there is a family on the way. Their mortgage is being renewed and the rate is one hell of a lot higher than when they took it out. I have had people coming to me and saying, "I fear I am going to lose this house."

The great dream of home ownership could leave a very sour taste in these young people's mouths because they are going to feel awfully cheated. It is not any lack of hard work or effort on their part; it is the usurious interest rates that we are paying in this province. This government needs a social contract and the people of Ontario need a social contract that says housing is a right and not a luxury. Then it needs an immediate program that organizes the funding and construction of the necessary homes.

I want to stop for a minute. I went down to Housing when I was raising heck over this particular lady in the Albion Road area. I asked them about their plans for more units, and they have none. That is not their role, I was clearly told. And they are right, technically. That is not their role. But there is now all kinds of money available for co-op and nonprofit development.

I went to Victoria Park and saw some of the other people and said, "How many new units are you likely to be bringing on?" One of the groups is planning 60 and is hoping that 15 of them may be assisted units. But, because of the red tape and the problems in getting it started, it just isn't going to happen. Because it means a social commitment on their part, people are not going to get involved in trying to organize that kind of a housing program in any numbers that would mean anything. Private interests are not going to build that kind of low-income housing either. So if the initiative does not come from this government, those people are not going to stand a chance for housing in Ontario. We have a desperate need and the Minister of Housing cannot get away with his act for very much longer.

Profit-taking, as I said earlier, has got to be

removed. The tax necessary to fund such a program can be partially met by requiring that a portion of the investment portfolios of some of our financial institutions are used on the basis of the cost of the money only. That is a form of tax. We are going to have to take a look at government involvement in it. I have no doubt about that at all. Unlike most of the other members, I cannot understand the bias against government involvement in something that is a social need.

A percentage of the investment portfolios of some of our major financial operations could be used. If we take a look at the profits of the banks and some of the insurance companies, they are, like the oil companies, almost at all-time highs. Maybe five of 10 per cent of their investment portfolios should be put into housing at a set interest rate that covers nothing but the bare cost of the money, if indeed that.

I think the returns on that, in terms of the uplift it would give the economy in the necessary goods and services for people who were finally able to afford a home, would be tremendous and would far offset any short-term costs that might be involved in a slight lowering of the profits of some of our banks, insurance companies and trust companies or in a slight shortfall if additional revenues of this province had to go into an immediate housing program. I happen to think it is desperately needed now.

I think this change is fundamental. It means that the bland, yet shrill, defence of the private initiative that we see and hear most often, and with the repetition of a ticking clock, from the Minister of Housing must be replaced with an understanding that this province will not accept a defence of private enterprise that says, "The right of continued exploitation of people is the price of defending that private enterprise." That is exactly what this minister and this government are doing—defending the right to exploit in the name of private and free enterprise in Ontario.

While the incentives for industry continue—and nowhere in that speech from the throne do I see or hear this government asking for equity—the incentives for the disadvantaged and the poor are nowhere to be seen in this budget. The poor in this province are getting poorer. The figures show that. We are creating a potential powder keg of social and economic resentment in Ontario as well as moving towards the ghettoization of the poor and the disadvantaged I talked about earlier. Soon some of our cities are going to see some of the tragic sights we have seen in some of the cities of the United States. That bothers me.

I did a lot of my campaigning, since I found it effective, outside food shopping centres. As I stood outside Eastgate Square Shopping Centre in the east end of Hamilton, I got a lot of the people walking in from some of those tragedies that are the Di Cenzo apartments at 40 Grandville Avenue, 50 Violet Drive, 11 Delawana Drive and 11 Grandville Avenue. I talked to the people from those apartments coming to buy things. They talked to me about the problems.

I have a petition in my office right now on one of them—I think it is 50 Violet—signed by slightly in excess of 100 people in that building about the increased prices, the lack of any services, their inability, because they are hard-up people and do not have much to begin with, to organize into an effective tenants group, the dirty walls, the no parking, the controlled security system that has not worked for almost a year, the leaking pipes, the fire hoses, the sauna, which is part of the price and has not worked for two years, the nonexistent playroom that is in their contracts, the long waits for repairs, the fire hose that was down on the seventh floor for almost a week, the orders for cleaning up that are almost ignored, the cockroaches and the owner laughing at them, laughing at them when they call listing their complaints.

There is the lack of action on their problems. With the watering down—and that is really what we have seen of the Residential Tenancies Act—of the rent control procedures, when their increases do come through they are usually well above the six and eight per cent even now.

There was the quiet rationale of a gentleman, and he was not an old gentleman but probably in his early fifties, who stopped in front of me and said, "I have something on my mind I want to say." If I remember correctly, the special that day was eggs. He said: "They have a special on and it is a good one. It is less than half price and it's a staple. It is a good part of my family's diet in my house now. You know, the store limit is only two per customer. This is my fourth trip to the store. Maybe, Mr. Mackenzie, just as a little white lie is accepted, maybe a little dishonesty can be accepted. These are the things I now have to do to make ends meet. I don't like myself for doing it."

Most of us would not even have considered it, I suppose. If we did not go four times to the same store, we would have looked for other branches of the store. There is a point there. It is the kind of degradation, even in a small way like that, we are putting people through who are trying to make ends meet in this society of ours.

When he comes and says—he obviously recognized me—"I don't feel very good about myself because this is my fourth trip to take advantage of that special," then it hit me. Boy, we surely have our priorities screwed up somewhere in this province.

5:40 p.m.

There are others. I want to tell about an appeal I went to where I got nowhere. I should not take credit for it. My assistant in my constituency office, who is a damned good one, went to this appeal. But I had gone around to the house, made two trips and had phoned a number of people, trying to do something for a chap, a quadraplegic in his middle twenties, married with one child. He is living on Britannia Avenue in my riding.

His income is now the huge amount of $800 a month and he is therefore ineligible for assistance. As for family benefits, his monthly income exceeds budgetary requirements. Incidentally, $594 a month is what he really would be placed at. We think the older people also are having some real problems, and this is not a knock at them, but that compares with an $877.22-per-month income that a couple on pension now would have. Yet he is allowed an income of $800.

He had listed his expenses. His social worker, before we went in, had looked at the things he was trying to do in a desperate effort, with almost no movement—he had a very slight movement in his arms and hands—to get into some commercial drawing. I do not think he is ever going to make it, to be brutally frank. But there was still an attempt, although I sensed it was beginning to evaporate, to make it on his own and keep what he had together. I suspect that will not last long, being brutally frank.

But he needed $1,161.85 a month. His own social worker had worked that out as well. We went over it. It made sense. We went to the appeal. But there is nothing in legislation that allows going beyond the $800 which is the income for that young quadraplegic and his wife and family. Surely to goodness that also says our priorities in this province are out of whack.

Women between 55 and 64 are a group that has always bothered me. In pulling together a bit of information today, my assistant, Dorothy Markeson said, "I feel bad, but many times after we have gone through the case and the figures with a woman in the 55 to 64-year-old range, I tell them to grow old fast so they are eligible for the higher pension. I usually try to make them laugh when I do." That also says something.

If we take a look at the shelter allowances, single persons are allowed $75 per month for shelter plus, if rent is more than that, an additional $20. Basic family shelter allowance is $130 plus $5 for each additional family member. If rent exceeds the allowance by $30, they get a subsidy of $30. It is impossible to find shelter for $75 per month for a single or $130 per month for a family in the private marketplace, even if the subsidies are added on top of that, and they are not the answers. That is demeaning.

The allowances are inadequate. A single person on welfare, who is eligible for one of the allowances, and a woman in particular in the age range I am talking about, would get $238 a month plus the $20 rent supplement, if eligible. There are a number of them I have dealt with in my constituency. This compares with an old age pensioner once again—to show the unfairness of certain areas of our population—who gets a basic pension of $208.20 plus the supplement, which gives him a total of $466.11.

We have people in this province who are really not on disability but unemployable who are trying to live on an income of $208.20 plus $20. I do not know how anybody can sit on that side of the House with that party in power without saying, if they say nothing else, "We have made some mistakes. There are some things wrong and some things we have to correct and correct in one hell of a hurry."

They should say this rather than defending themselves, as they sometimes do, by outlining the things they have done. They have done a few things, but I do not see a heck of a lot of substance in terms of help for those who really need it. They should look at the examples, such as I have outlined in my own riding, and hang their heads in shame because they have already broken a promise. They have broken it by making a commitment to and grovelling before the money lenders and not those who have very little voice to represent them. One cannot refute these kinds of cases, and this government does not seem to give a damn about the increasing hardship of the poor in the province.

These are not my figures, once again, but the poor really are getting poorer. The social services share of the total budget in Ontario has decreased from 63.7 per cent in 1975-76 to 61.4 per cent in 1980-81. Of social assistance beneficiaries, 43.4 per cent are children; yet existing programs provide inadequate income support for the protection and development of children in this province. Since 1975, levels of assistance

have fallen drastically behind. We have not even kept up, in regard to these people, with the cost of living.

I do not know whether I can find it or not, but a single mother on family benefits with two children would have been entitled in 1975 in Ontario to an annual income of $4,524, at which time the poverty level was $6,632. So her income was 31.7 per cent below the poverty level in Ontario. Let us take a look at that same woman, a single mother on family benefits with two children, today in 1981, She is entitled to $6,096, with an estimated poverty level last year—so it is going to be updated over this—of $11,088. The difference now is 48 per cent, where it was 31 per cent just five years ago. What are we doing to these people? Where is their representative in this particular government in this House?

We have a lot to answer for. Even on a local basis, we are having quite a hassle because of the short-sightedness of a number of the councillors in the city of Hamilton. They decided they were going to cut $117,000 or $118,000 out of the social services budget in the city of Hamilton. The fact that that meant—and maybe there was even pressure on them; I am cynical enough to think that may have happened—they would also lose almost $400,000 in provincial subsidies did not carry any weight when we went after them. We were not able to carry a majority, although it was a close vote on council. But we really are cutting back.

The case load has built up in the Hamilton social welfare department to about 140 cases per worker. Social workers will say that the effective range is probably 70 to 90, and the city of Hamilton since 1971 has taken the position that there should be no more than 100 cases per worker. We are now up in the 130 to 140 range.

What do the social workers tell me? What do the people on assistance tell me is happening? All that workers can do with this kind of a case load now is pass and issue the cheques. The one thing that has been cut out totally—it did not work in a lot of cases but was the one hope, I think, of the program—is the counselling, the work with people on budgeting and what they can do to get off the kind of assistance they are on. We did not have a high success rate, but such counselling is considered a glamour part of the job now. It is much more important to make sure we maintain enough social workers to issue the welfare cheques. I say that is also a sick ordering of priorities in Ontario, and I blame as much my local council for that.

I am glad to see some fairly prominent people, and I suspect they are not supporters of our party—one of them I know is very friendly with the party across the way—condemning this in the strongest possible terms. I am talking about Bishop Bothwell who said that the budget will hurt the poor of the region. His comments are pretty strong. I would hope maybe his comments would get through, not only on what happened in terms of the local council in Hamilton, but also to his friend, the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch), as to what we are doing to the poor and disadvantaged in our society with the kind of actions we are taking and the kind of cutbacks we are making.

Once again, it is sick. People are beginning to recognize it and we have them saying, "Hey, what has happened? Where are our priorities? Where are those old values that we heard about all through the election from the Premier?" When it comes to the larger and larger number of people who are poorer and poorer, where are the values that take care of these people? Why are we not doing something with them? Eventually, those people are going to realize they are being had. This is part of the buildup I am talking about that is going to see an explosion, maybe not too far down the road, in this country of ours.

This government does understand where the power lies and that is what makes it even worse. The power is with money and those who control the money, and they are the same people who exercise their vote. One does not have to look very far in election returns to see a higher voting percentage in most of the well-off areas in the province. They do it with an understanding of whom they are voting for and what they are protecting.

5:50 p.m.

The poor in this province have not voted in the same percentages as the well-to-do and have had little means of getting by the media. This is the only area—I sometimes wonder if they are looking for jobs—where I have criticism of the media. The control that is there, once again by the establishment in this province, orchestrates the defence of free or private enterprise, as they call it in this province. You do not get the story through to the vast majority of people who are not the establishment and to that lesser but large number who are really the disadvantaged and poor in Ontario.

But it is a powder keg that we are sitting on, the growing legion of the underprivileged who are going to soon realize they are being taken.

Let me say to this government, if they do not change their priorities quickly they are going to meet a wave of despair, frustration and anger that is going to destroy the smug complacency of Tory Ontario forever. I hope at the same time and in the process that it does not destroy our political system or does not increase beyond the current level, which is much too high, the public cynicism in terms of politicians and their ability to do anything about the problems in any event.

Nowhere does the inability of this government to respond to changing times and changing needs show more than in its response to one of the most important problems that we faced in the last session, and that was the committee that was constituted to deal with the problem of plant closures in our branch plant economy. Where was this issue in the speech from the throne? Where was it?

The Conservatives had no answers and consequently it was just not there. They might have to exert some control over their buddies, which they might not like; so they hide their heads in the sand and hope the problem will go away. That is the kind of leadership we had in this issue in Ontario.

Let us take a look at some of the components of it. Severance pay: Like many others who have mentioned this, I was discouraged and disgusted when I saw no mention of severance pay in the throne speech. It did not really surprise me. I do not like it in myself, but I am growing more cynical day by day. But I saw no mention of it. The Premier's response in the press scrum was certainly one of arrogance: "I did not make any promise."

Let me say I was proud of my leader when he read the actual Hansard comments of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Elgie) the day that we first raised that question in the House. If you read them yourself—and I recommend this to all of the new Tory back-benchers just so they know exactly what they are dealing with—read the exact statement that was made in the House by the Minister of Labour. It was, on behalf of this government, a pledge that we would have severance pay, and he spelled out the details in so far as saying it would also be retroactive to January 1.

Now there is no question in my mind that an honourable member and an honourable minister such as the Minister of Labour, were that to be totally negated, such as the Premier seemed to be doing, was going to have to resign. I happen to think he probably, of any of the Tories I know, may have had that much integrity. I do not know what goes on in that caucus, but I do know he was put in an intolerable spot. I also know it was so obvious from the commitment that had been made in this House by the minister that the Premier also could not quite get away with the just blanket arrogance that they came back into this House with. We now are told that maybe we will get some legislation.

I suspect if we do it will be a little bit dishonest. It will probably offer two or three days' pay instead of a week per year of service. I do not know how much that compromises the Minister of Labour, but I hope I am wrong on that. I sincerely hope I am wrong, because the commitment has been made and the committee recommendation—and it is only one one of the minor responses to the problems we have in the province—was that there should be a week's pay per year of service in the event of plant closure or shutdown.

What did the plant closures committee find in terms of plant shutdowns? There are a number of other things that should have been in the speech from the throne, that should have been dealt with, and were not. I want to bring the members' attention to the interim report which did get support from members in all three parties and was filed and debated in this House.

"Foreign Ownership" is the title. Now, maybe a pledge, an agreement, something passed, something accepted does not mean anything. Quite frankly, I would not be surprised; I am becoming that cynical with this government, but this is what was presented to the House with support of all the parties.

"Foreign ownership: Decisions with respect to shutdowns are made in many cases outside this country; operations rationalized in favour of increased production in the parent company's country to meet the demands of the Canadian market; the parent firm can decide to reduce Canadian manufacturing operations to assembly, distribution, and/or marketing operations and still compete in the Canadian market; some foreign-owned branch plants do not try to complete in export markets, denying themselves access to the large markets that they need to be viable; the possibility that decisions are made in advance to transfer profitable product lines and research and development outside of Canada"—the case in Peterborough was an example of that; I remind honourable members that when we finally started getting into an export market of some size in terms of the 30-horsepower engines, all of a sudden it was yanked over to the American plant and that was

the end of that particular operation—"thereby reducing the economic viability of the operation in this country."

The foregoing was backed up and could have been stated stronger. Indeed, that would have been done by this party but at that point, with a couple of other concessions, we were trying to get a report out that had some possibility of passing this House.

With the possible exception of the Heintzman plant closure, there was not another submission before us, from management or labour, where the message was not practically the same. Not only do the union and the workers have no say in the decision, but in many cases there was even a startling lack of consultation with the Canadian management. In some cases they were told exactly what to do and when to do it.

I recall the words of Mr. Smith of Bendix, who said that the plant had made a good profit for almost every year it was in operation, although a little bit tighter in the last year; that they had refurbished the entire plant; and that he expected to make even more money in that plant. Then he received a memo from the American parent corporation, saying, "We are going to shut down this plant unless you can justify its staying open." After appointing a new president and refurbishing a profitable plant, they wanted to shut it down.

To give him credit, he was a blunt and honest company spokesmen. He said: "I couldn't justify keeping it open. Yes, we could make a profit, as we had been doing, and probably could make even more money. Yes, we had workers who had worked here for up to almost 40 years. But, knowing the company's projections, figures and production capacity in the American plant, they could make even more money by shutting down this operation."

Such is the economic and national clout that we have in Canada. The Bendix operation and the 500 or 600 workers went, a viable, profitable operation was shut down, and the decision was made outside Canada. At least in that case, as distinct from the Essex Wire situation, they were given the courtesy of two weeks' notice to try to justify keeping the plant open before the parent company closed it, based on the criterion that it should be able to make more money here than the parent company could by using its excess facilities in the United States.

That happened again and again. There was the ridiculous situation in the SKF operation in Scarborough of a huge multinational, whose biggest operations are in France, Sweden and West Germany, telling its West German and Swedish workers that it was going to close the Scarborough plant, months before it talked to anybody in that plant. Even management would not admit that it talked to them before discussing with the workers in Europe the fact that it was going to phase out the profitable lines and close the Scarborough plant.

I think we were remiss in this. I have criticized my trade union colleagues in the International Metal Workers Federation for not getting in touch with us faster. We found out by reviewing SKF's corporate statement, which was sent at our request. We discover that the company had discussed with the unions in Germany and Sweden, in accordance with the legislation in those countries, the fact that it was going to close a Canadian plant and put Canadian employees out of work.

But the Canadian workers did not hear about it nor, as far as we know, did the management or this government. Examples of such treatment are legion. How long are we going to allow that to go in Ontario? Where in this throne speech is there a single reference to that kind of action? It doesn't exist.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mackenzie, do you have much more to say?

Mr. Mackenzie: I have more to say, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I would call your attention to the clock.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

CONTENTS

Thursday, April 30, 1981

Interest rates, point of privilege, Mr. Riddell, Mr. Henderson. 193

Statements by the ministry

Snow, Hon. J. W., Minister of Transportation and Communications:

Provincial rail policy. 193

Baetz, Hon. R. C., Minister of Culture and Recreation:

Indo-Chinese refugee settlement. 194

Oral questions

Walker, Hon. G. W., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Provincial Secretary for Justice:

Astra/Re-Mor, Mr. Smith, Mr. Swart, Mr. Bradley. 195

Ontario Fire Code, Mr. Smith, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Breaugh. 196

Rent control, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ruprecht, Mr. Epp, Mr. Philip, Mr. Peterson. 198

Astra/Re-Mor, Mr. Bradley, Mr. Nixon. 202

Astra/Re-Mor, Mr. Cunningham. 204

Bennett, Hon. C. F., Minister of Housing:

Housing prices, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ruprecht. 200

Ashe, Hon. G. L., Minister of Revenue:

Aid to pensioners, Mr. Breithaupt, Mr. Epp. 201

Drea, Hon. F., Minister of Community and Social Services:

Death of Nijah Degg, Mr. R. F. Johnston. 203

Elgie, Hon. R. G., Minister of Labour:

Domtar dispute, Mr. Samis. 204

Norton, Hon. K. C., Minister of the Environment:

Liquid waste disposal, Mr. Kerrio. 205

Motions

Standing committees, Mr. Wells. 205

Committee sittings, Mr. Wells, Mr. Martel. 206

Question period, point of order, Mr. Roy, Mr. Speaker. 206

First readings

Referendum Act, Bill 27, Mr. T. P. Reid. 207

Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, Bill 28, Mr. Philip. 207

Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, Bill 29, Mr. Philip. 207

Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, Bill 30, Mr. Philip. 207

Inco Limited Acquisition Act, Bill 31, Mr. Martel. 207

Throne speech debate

Mrs. Scrivener. 207

Mr. Van Horne. 222

Mr. Mackenzie. 225

Recess. 234

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Ashe, Hon. G. L.; Minister of Revenue (Durham West PC)
Baetz, Hon. R. C.; Minister of Culture and Recreation (Ottawa West PC)
Bennett, Hon. C. F.; Minister of Housing (Ottawa South PC)
Bradley, J. J. (St. Catharines L)
Brandt, A. S. (Sarnia PC)
Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
Breithaupt, J. R. (Kitchener L)
Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
Cunningham, E. G. (Wentworth North L)
Davis, Hon. W. G.; Premier (Brampton PC)
Drea, Hon. F; Minister of Community and Social Services (Scarborough Centre PC)
Elgie, Hon. R. G.; Minister of Labour (York East PC)
Epp, H. A. (Waterloo North L)
Henderson, Hon. L. C.; Minister of Agriculture and Food (Lambton PC)
Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
Kerrio, V. G. (Niagara Falls L)
Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)
Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
Norton, Hon. K. C.; Minister of the Environment (Kingston and the Islands PC)
Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)
Riddell, J. K. (Huron-Middlesex L)
Roy, A. J. (Ottawa East L)
Ruprecht, T. (Parkdale L)
Samis, G. R. (Cornwall NDP)
Scrivener, M. (St. David PC)
Smith, S. L. (Hamilton West L)
Snow, Hon. J. W.; Minister of Transportation and Communications (Oakville PC)
Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Turner, Hon. J. M.; Speaker (Peterborough PC)
Van Horne, R. G. (London North L)
Walker, Hon. G. W.; Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Provincial Secretary for Justice (London South PC)

Publicat
R8

Ontario

No. 8

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



First Session, Thirty-Second Parliament
Thursday, April 30, 1981
Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.



Hansard subscription price is $15.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Central Purchasing Service, Print Procurement Section, Ministry of Government Services, 8th Floor, Ferguson Block, Parliament Buildings, Toronto M7A 1N3. Phone (416) 965-2238.

Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Thursday, April 30, 1981

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE
(continued)

Resuming the debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I do not see a quorum in the House.

Mr. Speaker called for the quorum bells.

8:04 p.m.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I figure the tunnel vision is so narrow and the minds are so closed on the other side of the House that anything said by any member in this House who is not one of their party is not likely to carry much weight in any event. That is a sad commentary on the respect for the House by the members of the government party. Given that is the case, I suppose I should be pleased we managed to drive most of them out of the House during my speech. Maybe it is some small accomplishment.

When I left off I was dealing with the plant shutdown committee, with the evidence before us, with the companies before us, with some of the conclusions that were obvious and with some of the conclusions that were accepted in that committee by members of all three parties in this House. It was a commentary on the kind of priorities and the content in the throne speech when, as far as I can tell, it was a great big zero in terms of reference to this select committee and the work it was doing.

Certainly, with the record layoffs and plant closures we were having in Ontario, with the hurt and disruption this was causing workers and people, and with the real concern it was starting to generate amongst working people as to what was happening in Ontario, to have the throne speech then come out after the drivel of "keep the promise" and all the little jingles, and not even mention it, is a pretty sad commentary on the commitment of that government and its members.

I thought a number of things were important. I read the points that dealt with foreign ownership. Our problem before that committee obviously was related to the branch plant type of economy we have. There also are some other observations.

I know in the debate I made reference to three particular paragraphs on page 33 of that report, but I think it is worth doing it again because, although I cannot judge what was going on in the minds of some of the Conservative members, they finally all supported it to get this interim report through. I think it is important to state those three paragraphs again in terms of this debate on the kind of actions and recommendations made by this government in the throne speech.

These preliminary observations state: "It is clear from the cases studied by the committee that the decision to close has been a company monopoly. The decision is not only a head office decision but in branch plants one which is made with little input from Canadian management.

"It is equally clear in these cases that the unions representing the workers had no influence in terms of the closure decision. The union's role was reduced to that of trying to negotiate the best possible settlement after the fact."

I think this is the important paragraph in this section of the report on plant closures in Ontario: "These conclusions clearly indicate questions which must now be addressed by the committee. Should government take a role in the decision-making process prior to plant closures and should protection be offered workers and the communities affected by a closure if a closure must proceed?"

Until we started negotiating with the House leaders, and I gather it may not be cleared as yet, there was going to be no reconstituting of that committee. Those serious questions that have a major effect on the economic and industrial future of Ontario, having been debated for weeks in that select committee of this House, were not even going to come back into the House.

I do not know what other members opposite think but I think there was some substance to the concern expressed in that report; and I could read the names of their members who also

signed that report. It is regrettable—and that is the kindest thing I can say—to see the arrogance that says, "We do not even have to put that in the throne speech we present to this House when this Legislature reopens." I have difficulty containing myself when I think of the hours we put in, of the debates and the testimony we heard, to find it rejected so totally by the Conservative government of Ontario

8:10 p.m.

We dealt also with many individual cases, I might say just in passing. One would think, if nothing else got through, that would. That is why I recounted some of the personal incidents that I have run into where people in my riding are hurting; the many individual cases, the many years of service, with no notice, not even so much as a handshake in the case of some of the Essex Wire employees.

Our efforts were never successful, even to get back before the committee any kind of management that had any authority in the decisions. There was an utter rejection of any Canadian management, because it just did not exist. There were several hundred employees out in that particular plant, but even the individual cases did not seem to move this government in terms of its saying, "Yes, those kinds of concerns are important enough to put into this throne speech."

There are other attacks going on in Ontario in terms of workers, job security and wages. By golly, we had better start paying attention to them, because they are going to hurt.

Let me cite one of the most recent examples that I am dealing with right now. It is that of a gentleman who put in many years as a security guard with Dofasco in Hamilton and got up to a decent rate of pay, then left because, I guess, he was buying the philosophy that you can move ahead, start your own business and make a name for yourself in Ontario.

I suppose being a security guard is not considered by many to be one of the foremost jobs in our community, but he left it to try to start a business. He struggled for a couple of years, but he did not succeed in his business. He had a good record as a security guard, so he got into the Firestone plant as a security guard after his own business collapsed. He spent about two years as a security guard in the Firestone operation.

I am not coming down hard, although I am not happy, in this case. I suppose part of the whole economic picture—a picture that really has been distorted by government grants to the Michelin plants down in the Maritimes—is that the tire industry has been in trouble right across Ontario. The Firestone plant has had to make some tough decisions too. My unhappiness is with the kind of pressure that was exerted with the contract talks and the employees in that particular operation.

Let me tell what has happened to this gentleman, also in my riding. A year ago, the company notified the security guards that they were going to lay them off. They did not have a large number; there were several of them. They had up to 12 years' seniority. This chap only had two years. After buying the great dream and trying to get his own business going and not succeeding, he also had initiative. He was not one of our recipients and never asked for welfare; he went right back and managed to get another job. He was earning about $7.80 an hour, which is not a high wage in Hamilton by any means, but he was getting by on it.

They were all informed by Firestone that they were going to dispense with the security guards. They were not organized either, and that is one of the tragedies; they did not have protection in the form of their own union. The company was going to hire, I think it was Barnes Security Services Limited, and it did. These employees were let go, and those who had the 10 and 12 years' employment lost what rights they had built up in that operation.

Barnes came in at a considerably lower rate, I might say, than was paid the people who were employed. But I must say now it never was the company's intention to keep the private concern because allof a sudden, one year later, and after all of the original staff paid at $7.50 to $8-something an hour were gone, what do we find? This past week in Hamilton, the company is advertising: "We are going to hire our own security guards again. We will start them at $4.75 an hour, and they can build up to $5.75 an hour."

This gentleman was one of the first in to see me, and he said, "Where is the justice?" I do not know; that kind of undermining of workers and what is going on are things that we bloody well should be concerned with in this House. Every member of this House, regardless of affiliation, should be concerned about what this is doing to ordinary people in Ontario.

Less than a year ago I asked the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Grossman) what security we could give to workers at Johns-Manville after the decision to close down that operation for a variety of reasons. I asked him at

the time about the other half of the operation, the other half of the 170 or 180 employees who were still there—and there is a fairly valuable piece of property in that Johns-Manville operation in Scarborough. I asked what kind of protection we would give them. Of course, it was alien to the Tory way, whether they would be willing to consider some kind of an attachment on the assets of that company in the event they moved.

The vast majority of the employees of Johns-Manville are already disabled, and something like 70 of those remaining in that plant are already collecting a pension of anywhere from 10 per cent to 40 per cent for lung disabilities. The company keeps them on at the regular rate, which is cheaper than going the other route.

It was obvious they were not even going to be able to keep up production in that plant with the kind of work force they had. They made a big thing out of it, but it was a phoney thing. They made a big thing out of keeping them according to seniority, but it meant they kept all of those with disability and it meant they were not going to be able to get the production out of that operation. There is still no word.

I hope the minister will respond, after my question of some eight or 10 months ago, to the rumours that are pretty prevalent in the east end of Toronto among all the employees at Johns-Manville. It is all around the plant that they are getting ready to close the last part of the operation down. I still hope that is not right, but I felt one could see it in the cards a year ago.

I am asking what we are doing in terms of the costs this province has to pick up. We have a tremendous number of workers in that plant who are going to die of lung cancer because of asbestos exposure. A majority of the workers in the plant are already suffering because of some kind of lung disability. We do not know how we are going to pick up all of those costs if that company pulls up stakes and moves out—if they close the rest of the operation down.

I hope they do not. I asked the question because I was concerned it could happen a few months ago. We got an absolute rejection from the minister to taking any action like that, because they were not going to interfere with the private system. We had better start interfering with the private system if we are going to look at people and their concerns.

I look at the throne speech for a real approach to safety and health in the workplace. It took years of fighting to get to the point where we finally had Bill 70. We have expressed our happiness with that bill as far as it goes. We have expressed concerns with it not going far enough. There are a number of areas in which I expected to see some clear direction from this government, and I have not and do not see them.

I wondered, for example, whether we would see any extension of coverage. If the government thinks people are all covered under this bill now, it ought to know better. There were the obvious fights we had over covering hospital workers and farm workers in terms of safety and health legislation—when we got support from neither of the other parties. I had a delegation of bus drivers in my own city just last week who asked how it was that they were covered under the bill when they were working in the garage but not when they were on the road. Those kinds of loopholes are all too prevalent in Bill 70 in the safety and health legislation, and they should be covered.

Coke oven emission standards: I am assured by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Elgie)—if he does not get the legs cut out from under him again by his party—that we probably are finally going to get some standards. No, we are not going to get some standards; what we are going to get finally is a gazetting of the proposed coke oven emission standards.

Within the last week I sat down with John Lennie and some of the Local 1005 safety and health people again. I learned there are increased numbers of workers, not only in the old coke oven operations—the top side of the coke ovens is still a dangerous operation in terms of exposure—but also in the basic steel-making functions in those mills. They are starting to fight to try to establish the claim to a pension for cancer and death resulting from exposure in the basic steel mill operations.

I have never quite been able to get over the problem we had when we asked questions of the Premier (Mr. Davis) about the letter he sent to Bill West and John Lennie, chairman and co-chairman of the safety and health committee of Local 1005. Some members will remember the question I asked in this House about when we were going to get the standards. The unions have been fighting for these coke oven emission standards for a long time and they have been enforced in the United States. They were challenged at least three times by the courts in the United States and upheld. They have been enforced for five years in the steel mills in the United States, and I want to say very frankly

that the emission standards are not being met in every case, even with the legislation there. Now I am going to fight to try to improve them.

8:20 p.m.

What it does achieve for the workers is that there is set period testing. There is constant exposure monitoring so that they can pull the workers off the operation where there is the danger of damage to the lungs in the coke oven operations. There is a constant series of examinations. There is a control at least, and they can now establish down the road that the exposure a worker had to those coke oven fumes may have resulted in or been responsible for the cancer that worker may suffer.

The Premier of this province said—I forget the exact words —he understood that they could expect the coke oven standards or emission standards to be in place by later that summer. That was in a letter in 1979.

We have raised hell a number of times with the Minister of Labour in this House in question period over the coke oven emission standards. We finally forced them, or somebody forced them—I know we made enough noise, but who knows how the procedure finally works—to ask the three major steel operators and the unions to submit their own suggested standards, and they gave them a set number of days to do so.

Strangely enough, I have all the correspondence. This file is nothing but the correspondence back and forth on the coke oven operations and the exchanges in this House. Strangely enough, within the time frame, there was a detailed set of proposed standards from the unions involved. To a large extent they copied the American standards, which have been in force for five years. There were some small changes; they wanted them tougher in some areas but did not expect to get them tougher. I suspect what we are finally going to get will be considerably weaker than the standards in the United States. That is already happening with lead and asbestos and some of the other substances we are finally getting gazetted.

We finally had this meeting of all parties, the companies and the unions together. We finally got the union to submit, within the time frame, the submissions. We waited months and dragged it out of the three companies. That finally happened half a year or a year ago again. We have had some very nasty words. It surfaced, I am sure, in the riding of the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Ramsay) during the election. It has been on the minds of my people almost weekly, and they are calling me about the Stelco operation. What happens?

Once again, I do not see it anywhere in the speech. But I suppose that is not necessary. When we push the Minister of Labour, we understand that standards will finally be proposed. I was told I probably would not like them, and that is what leads me to say they are probably much weaker even than they are in the United States. But they are going to be gazetted within two or three weeks, I hope, though that is probably asking too much.

We know what that means. We are going to go through the whole series of hearings again, and the submissions from all interested parties, which we have already done. We did it on the basis of meeting together to make submissions and then circulating the submissions from both the companies and the union.

How long are we going to play around with workers' lives with this kind of procedure in terms of safety and health legislation in Ontario? We should not have to gazette those bloody regulations, but we had better set some time frame on when the responses come in and when we are ready to enact legislation to protect those workers.

I cannot leave this without finding for a moment here, if I can, the list of hazardous substances. My colleague the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) well remembers our surprise two years ago, I believe it was, in the estimates, when we started dealing with what is happening with asbestos. The whole world knows the danger of that, and there are standards in the United States and many other areas. Once again, this great progressive province of Ontario is without them. Where are they?

We were told in those estimates in the fall two years ago that some seven substances—I forget the particular substances now—would be gazetted within a matter of weeks or months. They said the committee at McMaster was already looking into it and would look at the responses; then they gave us a list—that is what I was looking for and I seem to have mislaid it—of the suggested other substances and the times at which we might be dealing with them.

It was very interesting. They took the substances and broke them down into some of the dangerous substances with which they knew they were having problems. The new standards had been set—they were not flying blind in the United States or in other jurisdictions—and they gave us the lists. The first few I mentioned were for 1978-79. There were seven or eight items for 1979-80, another seven or eight for 1980-81, some for 1981-82 and another list for 1982-83.

I wrote this letter on December 14, 1979, to some of my colleagues in the trade union movement:

"During the course of the Labour estimates, in the vote on safety and health on Tuesday evening, December 13, 1979, we received for the first time some very interesting information concerning hazardous substances."

I am not sure that somebody did not make a mistake by releasing it at that particular set of estimates.

"As you are aware, we have had no standards set to date. There has been a process set up for arriving at standards through the advisory council on occupational health and safety as outlined in their first annual report.

"The seven original substances"—these are going back to 1978-79—"namely, asbestos, cyanides, inorganic lead, mercury, silica, vinyl chloride and noise are taking a much longer time than was originally expected but hopefully will be set some time early in the spring.

"We have received a list of the 52 items currently being assessed"—that is over and above those seven—"and the priority lists for the next four years. The minister did indicate there would be some flexibility if a particular case could be made on switching one substance with another.

"One of the things that bothered me is the fact that the coke oven standard, although already established for three years"—this was two years ago; I said they had been enforced in the United States for three years—"and of great concern to coke oven workers in Ontario, did not appear on the list of priorities over the next three years."

Whether it was just an oversight or because the hell we raised finally moved it up the ladder, I do not know; but we probably are getting action on it as quickly as on anything else, if indeed we see it in terms of gazetting the standards.

I suggested that the unions take a look at the outline and time frame of the toxic substances and make their responses both to the government and to us if they wanted us to raise it further in the estimates or in the House.

My concern is that today, April 30, 1981, we still do not have a standard for even one of those substances in Ontario. The government should be ashamed for their lack of protection of workers. I hope some of the new back-benchers will say: "That at least makes some sense whether or not I agree with his philosophy. What has been going on in this House?"

With regard to the coverage of domestic workers under the employment standards legislation, I wish some of the new members had heard the speeches made by a couple of the members when we pushed for it. I was sorry to hear them, because I have great respect for one of those members. I doubt that they prepared the speeches they delivered. A line from one of them, which will never leave my memory, is that if we covered domestics under employment standards, "we might break up long-term meaningful relationships." I admit that I am not very polished, but I have not been able to understand that one to this day.

Any member who knows anything about the trade union movement will know that employment standards legislation offers no more than the basic minimum standards of protection, and domestic workers do not even have that. They can be exploited, made to work any number of hours, paid any wage and subjected to the poorest of working conditions.

With regard to coverage for agricultural workers—I know my Liberal colleagues do not favour this very much—we will be asking very shortly for some figures, which we understand are rather startling. The number of injuries and deaths among agricultural workers is a serious problem, particularly in some jurisdictions that probably are somewhat removed from actual farming. But we have had no action in terms of any coverage for these workers either.

8:30 p.m.

The responsible component of our society represented by the organized trade union movement, and that is not a big percentage of our people, fared about as well as before in terms of any initiatives in this speech. One has to search the throne speech to find any initiatives that even remotely respond to the case for fairness, change and equity that has been well documented, if occasionally in a partisan manner, by the trade union movement. We do not see the reaction to its concerns, and they are certainly an important part of our society.

Once again, Conservative response seems to have been to its obvious friends, the business community, the money lenders, with the back of its hand to those who from time to time have had the courage openly to question its policies and to strongly lobby for changes they honestly and sincerely believe are necessary in our society.

Let me raise two other issues that I think are of major concern and for which initiatives are either nonexistent or totally inadequate. I will not spend much time on them simply because I

know my colleagues have been raising them and will be raising them further, but I want to deal briefly with the matter of pensions.

I do not know of another issue—I suppose I could have tied this to the plant shutdown hearings and debate we had—that has caused as much concern to workers with long and faithful service to their companies as the fact that we do not have portability in pensions; that the majority of people in the private plans in the work force, who are now moving as many as four or five times in their lifetimes, do not meet the criterion of 10 years of service and 45 years of age, for a combination of 55.

While they may get their money back or the interest on it, they never end up with a pension. What they are really reduced to is the maximum they get from the old age supplement and the Canada pension plan.

I did not clip it out or bring it with me, but that is an inequity and a problem that I have seen three or four major figures within the private insurance industry admit recently, in speeches to their conferences and conventions, as being a problem on which they had better get their act together or they will in serious trouble. They have been totally incapable of responding to what is an obvious area of concern where workers are cheated out of a chance of a decent retirement income because of the inadequacies of the private pension plans.

We got the royal commission. I am not impressed with most of its recommendations. What do we see happening? I am trying to put it in a context once again of whether we are looking out for the interests of working people in this province? What do we see happening? We see the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) trotting off down to the chamber of commerce luncheon in Burlington. Which is to be expected, I guess.

He launches into a bitter attack. I do not really care if he does attack the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Monique Begin, but he says it would be wrong to upgrade and improve the CPP and OAS. It would not be the route of his government or his philosophy that it should be done with the Canada pension plan in this province. The improvements needed, and even the minister admitted there were improvements needed, should be done through the private insurance industry.

Boy, if there was ever a cop-out, that is it. One cannot begin to do it without some kind of a central pension agency. I happen to think that, even if my thoughts do not carry any weight at all, the only really positive answer is improvements, upgrading and increasing, probably to 50 per cent from the 25 per cent level, the coverage one can get under the Canada pension plan.

That is the answer. It is a mechanism already set. It is a plan something like the Ontario health insurance plan. I defy any Tory member to go out in the ridings where it has wide public acceptance and works and say we should go out and get rid of it and prejudge it here. Before we even get a committee set up in the House, we have the Treasurer of Ontario saying: "No, no. We do it with the private insurance interests. We sure as heck do not agree. We might even go so far as to veto any move to upgrade the CPP."

That is a sick approach from the Treasurer of Ontario. It is sick, if nothing else, that he has prejudged it before we ever get a committee set up. It is that kind of arrogance that has not helped this province and will not help in the long run. It will not help the Progressive Conservative Party in the long run.

I want to say also that I shook my head when the announcement was made that the way we were going to deal with the recommendations was by setting up another select committee to look at it. I really have nothing against setting it up. I suppose all of us have financially by sitting on some of these committees. There is even a role in terms of the input into various controversial areas. But to send out that entire report to a select committee, which is going to mean, with the best of intentions by the Tories, close to another year of fooling around with an important and vital issue and going through the hearings again without at least some interim action, is hypocritical and simply defies logic.

We have already had a resolution passed in this House, and I fully recognize that a resolution does not mean that much, but I might say it was not blocked by the Tories and was supported by all three parties. It was my own resolution which, just about a year ago, called for three things: portability through five-year vesting—if that had gone out for a committee to look at one could have made changes in it, I suppose, but at least it would have been a start to establish the portability—a central funding agency so that a worker whose plant closed down and who moved to another job could find his funds reinvested and could start carrying that plan with him, and some kind of insurance in terms of bankruptcies and plant closures.

They were very positive recommendations that are not my answer—I think the answer is in the extension of the public plan—but at least they would have solved some of the glaring

weaknesses and inadequacies of the private insurance industry in terms of the protection now, today, for workers in this province. If we had at least seen the initiative for legislation in that area as interim legislation from this government and then referred all of the other hundred and some recommendations to a select committee, fine; but we did not even have that kind of a courtesy, even after we passed that resolution in this House. I think it is unconscionable.

There is one other item I am really concerned about. Other than some small comments about setting up some kind of research into technological advancement in Ontario, what are we doing in a real, positive way about the juggernaut that is coming down the road on us in terms of the developments in microchip technology? Where are the initiatives from this government? Why are we already away behind most European countries and even the United Kingdom, with their problems, in facing up to what may be the first real industrial revolution since the invention of the steam engine, which was probably the only real industrial revolution in the world up to that point?

When one stops to think for a minute that one can take all the wiring components of an automobile, which are a big part of a car, and reduce them to two small microchips, which are miniature computers, in effect, you begin to wonder exactly what we are facing and where we are going. We have not started doing that yet, but they can now do it and that is one of the reasons for some of the problems at Essex Wire.

In Europe and in Britain, they are already asking for specific action; they call it a social contract. Where a company moves, in a big way, into the microchip industry, they have to sign a contract that guarantees fairness for the workers that may be replaced. They have to do that because there is a new component to this that we have not realized, and that is that the greatest replacement in the next few years of this development is not going to be in the industrial workers but in the professional and office workers.

The best experts are talking about reductions—in terms of banking, insurance, repetitive office operations, management functions—of 25, 35 and 40 per cent staff in a very short period of time. It is already happening in European operations, and they have social contracts that require a responsibility to workers who are going to be out of jobs. They have social contracts that require the corporation to replace taxes lost by the state or community. These contracts are now being negotiated because of the resulting unemployment. They are concerned with all such questions as how does it work, what do they do with it, where do we go?

This province has already suffered, I suppose, from the computers, which are really Neanderthals in comparison with what we are facing with the microchip technology. We see nothing in the throne speech, no recognition that it may mean hundreds and thousands and tens of thousands of jobs in a field where, I am sorry to say, they have not tended to organize and where they have the least clout. I am talking about office and professional workers.

8:40 p.m.

What are we doing? What is this government doing? Where are the initiatives? God forgive me for saying it, but where is even the committee—much as I have been disgusted with committees in this House—that is taking a look at this? I see no initiative from this government in looking at what may be one of the biggest threats in terms of employment and the future development of industry.

Most members probably know a lot more about microchip technology than I do, but one of the interesting things is that we are not even going to make the chips here. Their production is almost totally done now and is scheduled to be done in southeast Asia and Malaysia. Some of the labour publications in the International Labour Organization are now documenting that some of the women who are put to work in producing these by the thousand have gone blind in as little as four and five years because of the work involved.

We also replace the chips rather than trying to fix them once we start to use them. We are beginning to use them in our television sets, where warning lights come on very shortly and one just pulls the chip out and replaces it. One does not even need the repairman out.

There are a thousand and one things that could be used as examples, and we do not even get to produce them. These things are being made in low-wage areas in whatever corner of the world they can find where they can con the people into doing it and get away with it for pennies an hour.

IBM is one of the biggest corporations getting into taking control of this industry in North America. They are going to be darned sure they have got control, because it is going to take the kind of bucks that only either a major corporation or the government is able to provide. They

are making sure they are in on the ground floor, and we are going to be cut out even more in terms of looking after workers if we do not decide to deal with this particular problem.

The Deputy Speaker: I do not mean to interrupt the member for Hamilton East, but I would like to remind all members of the Legislature that, generally speaking, not much is said in terms of private conversations, but quite often if too many people indulge in private conversations it is distracting to the speaker. So if I can ask those members to tone their voices down, I know the speaker would appreciate it.

Mr. Mackenzie: I guess as a final line on this item, I just want to say I do not know of another developing industrial situation that has more danger signals up for working people, industry, and the province as a whole than has the microchip technology that is developing.

What throws me is not that this is happening and not that we are going to have accept it, but that I see the government of a province as rich and as well developed as Ontario does not even raise it in a meaningful way, in particular in terms of how we are going to take care of people, how we are going to take care of the tax base, how we are going to take care of the responsibilities in the throne speech.

Who has been sleeping at the switch? Or is it once again deliberate? Is someone saying: "Don't let's involve ourselves in anything that might be tough or controversial. Let's hope it goes away and, if we have to, we will buy them off with some kind of small action a year before the next election." We need to start dealing with this now and not just before the next election.

I was appalled also—and whether they agree or not, members will understand the extent of my feelings—when I looked at page 11 of the throne speech and read: "The government will continue an aggressive campaign to counter the threat posed by acid rain and to have controls applied against sources contributing to the problem, both in Ontario and from beyond the province's borders."

Our actions to date have not been much, but what really disturbs me is the questions that have been asked by some of my colleagues in this House about whether this government is ready to deal with acid rain where they have to deal with it; that is, at the source. One of the methods by which they can do it is by putting scrubbers in the coal-burning Hydro operations. That is expensive, and we have continually and constantly got from the ministers responsible the answer, "No, we are not prepared to go that extra mile." Sure, there are millions involved, but that is where leadership comes in, and that kind of expenditure is necessary if we are going to deal with the problem at the source.

Once again, all we hear is that they are going to take new steps. They have already told us in this House in the last few months that we will not require or force them to put scrubbers in some of the major plants that are polluting the atmosphere. Forgive me, but I do not have much confidence in what this government is doing.

There are a number of other items I wanted to deal with, but I recognize that I have probably abused my privilege in the House and gone on much longer than was expected. I simply have to say to the members of this House that I think we are heading for trouble. I have no confidence in the initiatives I see in the throne speech, and I do not think it covers what needs to be covered in terms of people. I am not talking just about my own obvious bias in terms of working people or organized labour, but about all the people I represent and all the people of this province. I find the government is fat, complacent, arrogant and hypocritical. I really wonder if they can turn it around.

I want to say that while it is not likely to happen, and I am not likely to have to eat crow, I would do it in a minute if I saw some positive initiatives from that side of the House in dealing responsibly with some of the problems I have outlined. They had better do it, because it is going to come down on their heads. I will tell them frankly, I am perfectly willing to be on the side of the people when that blowup comes and they say, "Hey, we have been taken, we have been conned, we have been had long enough by the Tory government of Ontario."

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased at the opportunity to reply to the throne speech. As a freshman member of this House, I have not as yet had a chance to address this awesome chamber, and I hope my colleagues on both sides of the House will take this into consideration.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the people of Lakeshore for their trust and confidence. It is a great privilege for me to take my seat with such distinguished parliamentarians. I hope I will be able to make a positive contribution to the labours at this Legislature and on occasion add some enthusiasm and initiative from the dizzying heights of these back benches. I can assure both my constituents and my colleagues that I will work at it diligently.

As this was the first throne speech I have heard as a member, I was somewhat surprised at the reaction it drew. Members of both the opposition parties and the press gallery described it as being inadequate and tired. Criticism was also levelled at this government because it provided nothing new for the people of this province. I would like to take a few moments today to reply to these remarks.

I read the speech from the throne and there is a paragraph that I would like to present to the House. It is on page six and it reads as follows:

"Ontario has a unique opportunity to use its world leadership in electrical generation technology to produce hydrogen. We stand to gain enormous long-term benefits from early entry into the hydrogen age. Approaches have been made to the federal government suggesting a joint funding program. In the meantime, the province will undertake major initiatives to support existing centres of recognized leadership in this field and will proceed with its previously announced commitment to establish an institute for hydrogen systems."

The establishment of the institute for hydrogen systems received very little attention. It is unfortunate, because this one paragraph alone may influence the future of this province more than any of us now realizes. I believe it is exciting and it is an indication of extreme foresight on the part of our government. I do not believe that all members fully appreciate its importance.

This simplest of all elements is lighter than air, contains three times the energy of gasoline and produces water as a byproduct of combustion. It is probably the most misunderstood of all energy forms and because of the Hindenburg disaster it is unknown to most people.

Hydrogen as an energy form is not a brand-new idea. Scientists have been aware of its existence and potential for centuries. Jules Verne wrote: "I believe that water will one day be employed as fuel, that hydrogen and oxygen which constitute it, used singly or together, will furnish an inexhaustable source of heat and light of an intensity which coal is not capable. I believe then, when the deposits of coal are exhausted, we shall heat and warm ourselves with water."

As time passes, his words become more and more prophetic. I believe hydrogen's most positive impact is its combustible byproduct, water vapour. In a world that is becoming increasingly conscious about environmental matters, hydrogen should become part of the future energy vanguard. Yet, by and large, it still remains an unrecognized energy substitute.

The fact is that most of our present energy requirements are being met by fossil fuels and every one of them is based on the carbon atom—coal, alcohol, wood, oil, natural gas and peat. All emit significant byproducts during combustion. Carbon dioxide and sulphur dioxide are all producing short-term and long-term environmental problems.

8:50 p.m.

Increasing quantities of carbon dioxide could have a disastrous effect on our climate. We are all aware of the problems caused by acid rain. Hydrogen remains one of the most environmentally benign forms of energy. One can drink the exhaust from a hydrogen-powered car. It is pure water. Finally, hydrogen leaks hold no known environmental problems. This is in stark contrast to oil, which can have far-reaching environmental effects. Because hydrogen is lighter than air, it defuses rapidly in the air and rises to the very top of the earth's atmosphere.

Hydrogen production is also attractive because it is inexhaustible or totally renewable. As the world's energy demands grow, more and more fuel will be burned. If this fuel is hydrogen, the result will be more and more water. This product, water, will in turn have the ability to produce more hydrogen. The basic energy that must be added to this cycle can be obtained from all conventional and novel sources that at present exist or are being developed. A country that runs on hydrogen is a country that can run forever.

Hydrogen can be produced in a number of ways, but one particular production method holds great promise for this province. It can be manufactured by electrolysis, by passing an energy current through water. Ontario's supply of water is abundant. Our ability to produce electricity has become a much-abused political football, but that extensive electrical generation capability could provide part of the answer to our energy needs.

As I mentioned before, we must get away from fossil fuels for environmental reasons. Nuclear generation is such an escape. There are no carbon or sulphur emissions produced by nuclear electricity and that electricity can in turn produce hydrogen. Our present generator system is designed to meet tremendous power demands.

Unfortunately, these demands are not constant. In low demand periods, say at 4 a.m., we have relatively idle generating stations. If we produced hydrogen in these downtime periods,

we would reduce the cost of maintaining these stations. At the same time, the electricity could be sold at a lower cost than normal.

The result would be that hydrogen would be cost-competitive with anywhere else in the world. Other jurisdictions without similar technology or capacity would be at a serious competitive disadvantage.

Other forms of electrical generation can also be used when they are developed. We now get something like 70 or 80 per cent of our total energy from fossil hydrocarbons, principally oil and natural gas. In transportation, the fraction is even higher. If hydrogen is to meet some of these needs, we will need to generate something in the order of five times the present supply. To meet these requirements, we will need fusion, solar power and possibly tidal and wind power systems. All are readily adaptable to hydrogen production.

When considering the use of hydrogen, it is important to differentiate between an energy source and an energy currency. Energies that are found in nature are sources; those we produce and that are transferable are currencies. Some such as oil and gas are both. In other words, we can carry them around in our cars or pump them into our homes, but the key is the application.

One cannot use a waterfall to heat one's home or save uranium to run one's car. We must convert these sources into a currency such as hydrogen. As of today, we have relatively few energy currencies and many energy sources. New energy sources such as solar, wind, biomass, fusion and wind power are not their own currencies. Our biggest use of energy sources today is the fossil hydrocarbons that act as their own currencies.

Hydrogen has many applications in industry, specifically in the petrochemical business. The difference between heavy and light crude oil is that the lighter crudes contain more hydrogen relative to the proportion of carbon. By increasing the proportion of hydrogen, the hydrocarbon becomes more liquid. The simplest way to overcome hydrogen deficiency is to remove some of the carbon. It is the method that is used in the Alberta tar sands, but unfortunately it wastes a great deal of energy and provides a carbon disposal problem. A better method would be to add hydrogen to correct the carbon/hydrogen ratio.

The present method of heavy crude recovery has been described as a bad chef who throws out the meat because there are not enough potatoes in his stew. Instead, they should just add a little more potatoes, or hydrogen. It is a situation that should be reversed.

Hydrogen can also be used to upgrade the same type of deficiency in alcohol fuels. About 2,300 tons of biomass are needed to make 1,000 tons of alcohol fuel. However, only 900 tons of the same biomass plus 100 tons of hydrogen would be needed to make the same amount of fuel. It is a much more economical method of production.

Hydrogen has great potential in the transportation industry. There are test buses operating in the United States which run on hydrogen and it is expected that within three years, hydrogen conversion tanks for standard automobiles will be available in Canada for about $700. However, major problems in distribution are still a long way from being solved. Until that happens, extensive use of hydrogen for automobiles is still very much in the future. Liquid hydrogen is also a strong possibility for use in airplanes and trucks.

Heavy industry is also very dependent upon hydrogen and mass production of hydrogen with lower costs of fertilizer and chemicals. It is also a superior chemical for metal ore reduction and would allow Sudbury and Hamilton to turn out nickel and steel as efficiently as they do now but with far less pollution.

Industrial, commercial and residential space heating needs can also be met by burning hydrogen. At this time, there are homes that are being heated and lit by hydrogen in a prototype development in the United States. Even television sets can be run off it. The bottom line is that it is a fuel with almost unlimited potential.

A hydrogen economy has some very real benefits. Its versatility and renewability can guarantee that hydrogen will be produced in virtually all inhabited areas of the earth. It would also be very difficult for a political or economic entity to corner the world's hydrogen supply and use it as a weapon to influence and control others. In other words, the hydrogen cycle allows mankind heat, work and transportation without the threat of an OPEC. Even Peter Lougheed could appreciate that.

Hydrogen fits in very well with our present off-oil conversion program. If we can replace the oil that is needed to run fleets of trucks and buses we will realize a substantial saving. I would like to see the new crown corporation at the Post Office give serious consideration to such a scheme. In economic terms, it is not very

feasible right now, but as a long-range goal it could certainly help us throw off this yoke of crude that we now wear.

Ontario's small entry into the hydrogen age is a good beginning, but it is no more than that. I was pleased to note that the throne speech reaffirmed this government's commitment to establish an Innovation Development for Employment Advancement Corporation. Along with this hydrogen centre, IDEA will provide a great boost for developing these new technologies.

This government has shown great initiative in the past. Ontario's contribution to the development of the Candu system has been monumental. We now possess the best nuclear generating technology in the entire world. Unfortunately this country's marketing techniques have been nowhere near as successful. That is something we must improve upon. Candu is so compatible with hydrogen production that any nation that has bought a Candu should automatically become a hydrogen system customer. I would like to see our growing hydrogen technology marketed in this light.

9 p.m.

I will conclude my remarks with a gentle reminder to some of the members opposite. We are all familiar with the scepticism some of them exhibited at our Premier's announcement of the Urban Transportation Development Corporation. The criticism was ill-advised, and we are grateful that it was ignored. The philosophy behind it is as shortsighted as that of a professional sports franchise trading off all its future draft choices because they probably will not develop. That is the quickest way I know of for us to lose that franchise.

I hope we will continue our work in hydrogen. Whether we like it or not, the French, Japanese, West Germans and Americans are moving that way. Canada could take an undisputed lead if we grabbed the opportunity now. We already have an accidental lead due to our advanced nuclear technology, our vast natural resources and our industrial research.

The Electrolyser Corporation Limited of Toronto is a world leader in the production of the equipment needed to manufacture hydrogen electrically from water. Noranda Mines of Canada is developing hydrogen storage systems of metal hydrides. We must take advantage of this technology now or we will slip back to being hewers of wood and drawers of water. All it takes is a little vision and a little courage to follow our convictions. I believe this government has plenty of both.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, the distance from Hamilton to Toronto is only 40 miles, but today I feel light years away, because here in this beautiful building, surrounded by history and tradition, pomp and circumstance, we can so easily forget what brought us to this place. I spent four long years working with Hamilton people so that they might believe in me enough to send me to Queen's Park. I would like to thank them for that vote of trust and I hope that I will not let them down.

When I arrived last week and listened to the speech from the throne, I viewed it from a Hamiltonian perspective. Mine was not the perspective of one who has spent much time in these hallowed halls, but the viewpoint of a people person, someone from the city of Hamilton.

What is Hamilton? Smog city, you might say. Those of you who see Hamilton only as you drive by on that atrocious Skyway bridge cannot understand the way I see my city. I was born and raised in Hamilton. I have lived in Ottawa, Montreal, London, Europe, and I wouldn't trade my city for all of them put together. Hamiltonians have a particular spirit, the flavour of people who live together, work together in the coke ovens, join in our ethnic festivals, share a capuccino on Sherman Avenue or enjoy a perogy at the Polish Legion. It is a community that cannot be equalled by any in Canada.

Not only do we boast the most diverse ethnic flavour in the province, we also have one of the most sacred resources in our country, Lake Ontario. In my riding, there is a community that is at present locked in a struggle similar to that of the Toronto Islanders. The Beach Boulevard community is fighting for its life and indeed the life of its children. We have neighbourhoods like the McAnulty Boulevard and Robert Land in the heart of our industrial belt, both of which are struggling to improve their quality of life and stave off industrial takeover. We have among the largest tenant populations of any city, with high-density dwellings minutes from the city core.

Hamilton Centre, my riding, boasts the city's tallest building, the largest park, the greatest number of churches, and the home of the area United Senior Citizens of Ontario. In short, we are a microcosm of this province.

J'aimerais aussi examiner la réponse du gouvernment à propos des Franco-ontariens. Dans ma circonscription, il y a la plupart des Franco-ontariens de Hamilton. Dans le moment ils luttent pour trouver quelque argent pour

bâtir un centre communautaire. Moi je devrais dire que dans une province comme l'Ontario c'est vraiment décourageant pour les gens de langue française qui n'ont même pas assez d'argent pour bâtir des communautés culturelles.

It was with that perspective that I listened to the throne speech and it is in that light that I must respond. I must ask whether the government has addressed the problems of working people in Ontario. I ask whether the government is committed to making improvements and, indeed, a complete overhaul of an outdated workmen's compensation system which discriminates against minorities.

I have looked and found nothing but hollow promises to proceed some time in the distant future. Meanwhile, I have only to walk down Barton Street to meet people, personal friends, whose lives have been turned inside out because they have lost their livelihood and, indeed, their sense of self worth through work accidents.

I ask whether the government is prepared to act on the issue of severance pay. While a minister promised to do so publicly, last year, what do we see in the throne speech? Nothing.

I ask whether the government is prepared to move on the issue of occupational health and safety and to consider coke oven emissions along with other health hazards. Not only is the government not committed to including emissions but it has done nothing to speed up the implementation of Bill 70.

As a Hamiltonian, I ask whether the government is going to continue its policy of ignoring our city except at election time or when it comes to experimental transit. Again, the only thing that I see for Hamilton is the chance to be used as a guinea pig for a light rail transit project which will bisect a portion of my riding.

I ask whether the government is prepared to act on the recommendations of its own study by building a tunnel beside the existing Skyway bridge and again, the answer is no. No response for Hamilton.

The government that brought us regional government, that legacy of woe to city taxpayers, brought us precious little else, including members on the government side.

I ask whether the government has addressed the problems of our poor. Did it talk in the throne speech about the recent report by the Social Planning and Research Council of Toronto which showed that government spending cuts have, in fact, exacerbated the difference in income groups in this province. In other words, the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer.

What about our tenants? What does the throne speech offer the tenants of Hamilton Centre? Does the government reaffirm its promise to retain existing rent controls as is? No. In fact, by not mentioning the promise, the government has made us realize that keeping the promise in this province does not apply to tenants.

While the government chips away at existing rent review protection, it does nothing to stop incredible speculation in the housing market.

9:10 p.m.

What about the working poor and our poorest single-income groups, single-parent families? Is there anything in this throne speech to indicate the government will make their lives a little easier? No. In fact, women, as an interest group, do not even warrant a mention in this speech, while the issues of day care, non-traditional jobs, home purchase stimuli, et cetera, are left virturally untouched.

What will the government do for our senior citizens? Obviously it plans to continue its pre-election bribe of tax credits which actually robbed our poorest senior citizens of much of their previous tax cuts.

In my riding alone, our seniors in community housing lost more than $200,000 in grants because of a so-called progressive tax that took from the poor to give to the rich.

What about those Hamiltonians—widows, seniors—who lost thousands through the Re-Mor scandal? Nothing, not even a mention of financial redress.

What about our multicultural groups, the people who built this province by the sweat of their brows? What does the throne speech offer to them? The government doesn't even have the courtesy to recognize them as interest groups.

What about our multiracial society? Has the government shown any interest in moving towards greater public awareness of the problems facing our visible minorities; problems that have reached such proportions in our own untouchable Ontario that a representative of the Ku Klux Klan was recently a guest speaker in one of our provincial high schools? Are these the issues this government will face—issues of courage, foresight, leadership?

I could go on about the litany of pat phrases and beatific platitudes offered in this throne speech. Suffice to say that this government has received a mandate by the people, albeit a slender one, and we, in opposition, charge the government with the responsibility of discharging that mandate. That discharge must go

beyond the petty confines of that speech from the throne. It must go beyond the paltry offer to electrify, and the rehashed promises of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program.

This government is faced with the challenge and we will be dogging its steps to make sure that the reigns of government are not held lightly. It is a responsibility that goes beyond party lines. We are charged with the future of this province, at least for the next four years. I, for one, will do all within my power to make sure that that awesome responsibility is met, not for personal political gain, but for the common good of the people of Hamilton Centre and the greater community of Ontario.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to speak in this throne speech debate. I would, of course, be remiss if I did not congratulate the new Speaker on his election to office. I know he will do an excellent job in that office and carry it out with the dignity and fairness that have been exhibited by the last two Speakers during whose terms I have had the privilege of being a member, namely, the former member for Northumberland, Mr. Rowe, and the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes).

I would also, of course, be remiss if I did not say a word or two about the election campaign we have just been through. It has been a particular pleasure to me that I was able to win in all sections of the riding and not just in the rental areas, as was contended by one party in this House.

Mr.Mancini: Who would say that?

Mr. Philip: It happened to be the Conservative candidate.

I would also like to say that in this election campaign the Liberals ran one of the nicest gentlemen I have had the pleasure to meet in a long time. He conducted the campaign in a manner I think should make his party proud. I am sure they were disappointed that they came third again in the riding but, none the less, it has nothing to do with the candidate. They ran an excellent candidate, I must say.

Mr. Nixon: We are going to get Len Braithwaite next time.

Mr. Philip: The former Liberal leader informs me they will get Len Braithwaite back again. I can remember standing in the House for the first time and the Speaker saying, "Would the member for Etobicoke rise?" THe Speaker had a way of never pronouncing my riding quite correctly during those years. At that time, the former Liberal leader asked, "Where is Etobicoke?" At least I have been present in the House on a regular basis. I am sure the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), who is always present in the House, knows that.

In 1975 we in the New Democratic Party made rent review a major election issue. The Liberals eventually, although ideologically opposed to it, finally jumped on the bandwagon and the momentum was so great that even the Conservative government agreed to rent review. During the last election campaign the Conservative Party answered a question sent to it by the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations. One of the phrases in that response is very interesting. It reads as follows: "The government's commitment to rent review as it currently exists is firm."

The key words are "as it currently exists." Even a person with a very cursory understanding of the English language understands that clearly means no change. Of course, the Premier (Mr. Davis) went around the province saying that rent review would not be removed as long as he was Premier. He failed ever to state what form it would take under his government if he got a majority. Will it be gutted in the way his colleague Sterling Lyon gutted it in Manitoba? Manitoba is still under rent review. It is there for everyone to see, but the tenants know it is not there for their protection. It is a gutless, watered-down piece of legislation. They cannot have a ham dinner from a sow's ear, no matter what they call it. That basically is what rent review amounts to in the Manitoba government.

Rent review was not in danger, the Premier told us. He urged voters to help him to keep the promise. What promise, one must ask—the promise to the developers or to the large landlords? Certainly the balloons floated by the new Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Walker) in the last few weeks have not given us any indication that the promise that is going to be kept is the promise to tenants.

Before rent review was established, there were very compelling reasons why rent review was needed. It was established by the 1974 Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation survey that showed that households of low-income seniors, single parents and young single persons would be the most likely to benefit from rent controls.

9:20 p.m.

It is widely known that the proportion of seniors to the rest of the population is expanding

rapidly and the percentage of single-person households has quadrupled in the last 25 years. More than 70 per cent of families in public housing in Ontario are of the single-parent type. Rent review has been of help to those people, the people most in need.

Rent control legislation now covers only about 960,000 of the 1.5 million rental units in Ontario. By exempting buildings first occupied after January 1, 1976, the province has set up two classes of rental housing. Large corporate landlords who are likely to be in the development business are often exempt by virtue of the fact their buildings are new buildings, built after 1976.

A very interesting economic analysis was presented to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations only yesterday. The analysis presented by a consultant, an economist by the name of Dale Martin, to the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations, clearly indicated that landlords under rent review, if they know what they are doing, are certainly not suffering any kind of economic loss. On the contrary, according to his figures a landlord can have a tax-free minimum real profit rate of 22.7 per cent, based on his investment, while at the same time claiming a zero operating profit for rent review.

Another interesting fact presented was that, according to the most recent figures, low-income families and tenants are the group that are paying a larger portion of their income for rents now than they did before the introduction of rent controls in 1975. Tenants now pay 22 per cent of their incomes to rent compared to 19 per cent in 1975. Therefore, there are no compelling reasons for the removal of rent review. The landlords are clearly making money and the tenants are paying, even under rent review, a larger percentage of their incomes.

The very problems that existed in 1975 which urged and compelled this government to bring in rent review clearly are present here today and, therefore, the removal of rent review simply makes no sense whatsoever.

The anomalies of real estate industries make traditional techniques of determining profits inappropriate when looking at the large landlord developer. First, as was pointed out to the minister by the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations, the assets in the real estate industry, that is, buildings and lands, are appreciating in value at a rate much higher than inflation. In other industries, such as manufacturing, assets like machines and factories decline in value as they wear out and become obsolete.

Second, the amount of money initially required to make the investment is much less in real estate than in other industries. To own rental property, as many of us who have appeared before rent review boards know, only a small portion of its value, usually 10 to 15 per cent, needs to be invested. Indeed, that is recognized by the rent review board as it allows mortgages only up and above a 15 per cent investment by the owner or owner company. The rest, therefore, is mortgage.

Other industries average about 40 per cent investment in assets which are owned. One may ask, why is there a 22.7 per cent minimum real profit, even if the landlord is just breaking even in rent review? As I pointed out to landlords, in rent review: "If you are showing a profit, you better get a different accountant. You simply don't know what you are doing because any fool who is a landlord and shows a profit is simply bumbling."

Assume that a landlord bought a building for a price in round figures of $100,000. He put down 15 per cent of the price, which is $15,000 of his own money, and mortgaged the remaining $85,000 with a traditional 25-year mortgage. On that mortgage the landlord will get back $85,000 as equity in the building over 25 years. This represents $3,400 return to him each year or 22.7 per cent on his original investment of $15,000. The fact is that landlords do not make money through the day-to-day or year-to-year income from tenants. The profits are to be realized in capital gains. That is where the 22.7 per cent comes from. The above example can be shown over and over again as we go through the books of any of the major landlords in the rent review process.

The Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations seems to keep on raising the trial balloons that would lead one to the uneasiness that rent review will be gutted in one form or another. In a radio news program I listened to he talked about $400 being a luxury building and that perhaps rent review should be removed from luxury buildings. Then he claimed he was only talking about $400 to $500 as being luxury in areas outside the Toronto or Metro Toronto area.

According to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 60 per cent of the population in Windsor would pay over $400 for a three-bedroom apartment. A three-bedroom apartment would be required by a husband and wife and two children that happened to be of opposite sex. It is the normal kind of apartment that would be required by a small family.

The figures are similar in Thunder Bay where 63 per cent of apartments there are over $400 for three-bedroom apartments. It is 38 per cent in Ottawa and 26 per cent in London. Are these the people the minister suggests in his trial balloons that he wants to exempt? If he does not, why did he raise the issue in the first place? More particularly, why, as a new minister, is he floating these kinds of ideas to the press without first at least having the decency to meet with some of the tenants' associations and discuss his concerns or his viewpoint or his philosophy with them? It makes no sense whatsoever.

The Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations met with the minister only yesterday. Despite ramblings by the minister about a reduced guideline, they are convinced that any changes he puts forward will not be beneficial to tenants. Before becoming minister, he advocated a tenant-initiated rent review program and bemoaned the lack of adequate rate of return for landlords under rent review. If 22.7 per cent is not an adequate rate of return, I really do not know what is. Does he want it higher than that? It is certainly higher than the average person is getting as an increase in his wages.

The federation claims it was given no assurance that his opinion has changed and was advised that the Premier will be making the decision. I find that interesting. First, the minister is appointed as the minister. It is announced in the House that the Minister of Housing (Mr. Bennett) is doing a bunch of surveys. Then he indicates to the federation that on the completion of these surveys he may be in a position to make some kind of decision. He refused to answer the question I asked in the House today about that.

One must ask who is running the Ministry of Housing. If the Premier makes the decisions and the Minister of Housing does the research, who is running the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations? What is the minister being paid for? Is he the minister? If he is the minister, why does he not take the responsibility rather than the Premier or the Minister of Housing? If he is not the minister, but merely the puppet of the Minister of Housing or of the Premier, he should not be getting a minister's salary. Why not make him a parliamentary assistant and put the portfolio under another ministry?

The party on the other side of the House is constantly raising the possibility of weakening rent review. We in the New Democratic Party have pleaded that rent review and landlord and tenant legislation be improved and strengthened. There are a number of problems in that act. I will be dealing with a few of them in private members' bills, some of which I introduced today while others will be introduced during the next 10 days.

One bill, which has long been awaited by Metro tenants, provides for an increased rate of interest on a tenant's rent deposit, which at present is just six per cent. In terms of actual dollars and cents the rent deposit is not a great deal of money but, psychologically, it means a lot to tenants. The tenant borrows money at 18 or 19 per cent—the rate went up again today—or perhaps he has bought Canada Savings Bonds, on which he gets about 11 per cent. But the landlord pays him only six per cent, another example of the arrogant way in which this government takes care of landlords and forgets about the tenants.

As my bill suggests, it would make sense to have this rate of interest at least at the level of the interest paid on Canada Savings Bond. That is lower than what the landlord pays the bank on a personal loan, but it is quite a bit higher than the rate the tenant gets at present.

My other bills will deal with the operation of rent review by the Residential Tenancy Commission. One of the bills I introduced today would ensure that new buildings built after January 1976 are covered under the rent review program.

The landlord sets his base rental in the new building. He can set any rent that he feels will make him a reasonable profit and attract tenants. Since the landlord can set that base and project his income and his costs over a period of time, does it not seem reasonable that people who move into buildings put up after 1976 should have the same kind of rent review protection as those who move into older buildings?

I think the various members from Scarborough will agree that the situation in their area is similar to that in mine. New buildings are being constructed. A large percentage of the buildings in the Scarborough ridings, in the Rexdale area that I represent and perhaps even in some of the Mississauga ridings was built after 1976. People have to live in these areas because they work in the area or because they cannot afford the escalating rents in downtown Toronto. Many of them move out of buildings that are covered by rent review into the new buildings and they experience the loss leader situation.

The landlord knows that it is to his advantage

to fill a building as quickly as possible. Therefore, John Brown gives up a building that may be an older building and does not have a swimming pool or a squash court or something like that and says, "Well, if I move into this new building I would pay maybe an extra $30 a month, but I would get all these extra advantages." Then, once he is there, once he has removed his children from school, once he is set up in the new community, once he is in that building, suddenly, the next year the gong strikes.

That is when the landlord says, "Well, you are not covered under rent review. I can raise the rent to anything I want." So up it goes by 17 or 20 or 25 per cent. And the tenant is faced with the problem, does he disrupt his family again? Does he take the children out of the schools they are going to? Does he undergo all the redecorating costs in a new apartment? Does he undergo all the costs of moving? Or does he pay that inflated cost which the landlord has passed on to him? Surely, if this government is not going to put new buildings under rent review, it can do something about the loss leader type of gouging that is going on now by certain landlords.

I look across and see one of the newer members who has just been elected, a fine fellow from the trucking industry. He understands regulation. He knows that regulation in an essential industry is important. Now the fellow a little bit to his left from northern Ontario does not quite understand that because he is a deregulationist, so I would not expect him to understand rent review.

I can appeal to the first member, to whom I referred as a Conservative, as somebody who was at one time president of the Ontario Trucking Association and who understands the value of regulation in an essential industry. But he must understand, surely, that in an essential industry like homes this kind of thing then is important.

Another one of my bills deals with the appeal process of the Residential Tenancy Commission. At the present time there is no requirement to have a tenant representative on the appeal panel at the commission. This bill simply says there should be one tenant representative, one landlord representative and one neutral chairman. In any kind of adversary situation one has that kind of even balance. But this government has not seen fit to do even that for the sake of giving not only the justice, but also what is equally important, the appearance of justice.

Another bill gives authority to the commission to order a reduction of rent when the landlord's financing costs go down. I happen to be an optimist in terms of economics. I look at the history of the market and of the North American market and I see that what goes up usually comes down. Just as interest rates are going up today, sometime we would hope, at the end of the summer or maybe next year, interest rates will go down. But we have no system built in to force the landlord to come before a rent review board if, by any chance, the interest rates—his costs if you like—go down, though he has justified a large rent increase on the grounds of escalating interest costs. Surely it makes sense to have an automatic review in those cases where refinancing results in lower costs to a landlord, because one may be sure that when their refinancing means higher costs the landlords go before the rent review board and get large increases.

And it is an increase that nobody can argue against. Landlords are not charitable organizations. If the mortgage comes to an end and they have refinancing, then, no matter what argument one can make, the rent review officer will simply say, "Well, you don't want him to go into bankruptcy. Here are his higher costs. He had a mortgage at 10 per cent; now he has to float it at 17 per cent. That extra seven per cent has to be passed on to the tenant." But when interest rates go down at some time in the future—we pray for it—somehow those savings should then be passed on and the rent would be lowered.

Another bill contains an amendment that requires the commission, when determining the merits of a case, to take into account the state of repair of the building and advise tenants before a building inspection takes place. It would allow tenants to accompany the rent review officer and show him what has taken place, because what often happens is that the moment a landlord knows that an inspector is coming then everything improves very dramatically.

9:40 p.m.

Another bill authorizes that the Residential Tenancy Commission pay a tenant's costs when a tenant has lost wages and incurred other costs by challenging a landlord because of an illegal rent increase. In any other kind of adversary system, we award costs to the person who is being grieved, but when a tenant takes time off to bring a landlord to justice, if you like, all that happens is the rent review officer says: "You have been a bad boy. You are not allowed to do that. Roll it back to what it was." The tenant does not even get the interest if he happens to

have been paying it illegally over a period of a few months. He does not get any of his out-of-pocket expenses. He may have even gone to a lawyer, or somebody like that, who has charged him a modest fee to tell him his rights.

Mr. Nixon: I have never known a lawyer to charge a modest fee.

Mr. Philip: In my riding they come to me and I do not charge them anything. I am sure the same thing happens in yours.

Another bill requires that a landlord produce the receipts for expenditures when a tenant or a tenant representative requests him to do so. This would apply to any expenditures over $100. Nobody is asking that he bring in a receipt for the staples he bought and with which he attaches the cheques to the invoices. Surely if those petty receipts exceed five per cent of the total cost which a landlord submits is justification for rent increases, then he should be required to at least produce those receipts.

For many years tenants have complained that certain landlords have been padding or exaggerating their expenses at rent review. Any of us who have worked on behalf of tenants for a number of years know that one can trust most landlords' receipts and can trust what they say are their expenses. But over and over again, when they talk to MPPs, when they talk to other people who are involved, when they talk to rent review officers, they know there are certain people they do not trust. Those are the problem cases. With 90 per cent of the landlords, if they say their expenses are X number of dollars, one can trust them and accept that. It is unfortunate that there is the odd 10 per cent one simply must have the right to question. That is what my bill would do.

Another bill that I will be introducing provides that the residential tenancy commissioner investigate whether or not repairs that have been projected by a landlord in justification of a rent increase have actually been carried out. In rent review after rent review, I have constantly had to argue that unless the contract has been given the cost should not be allowed. Occasionally, the rent review officer agrees. In other cases, though, I find when I come back the next year I say to the rent review officer: "That was charged last year. It was projected. Why was it not done?" Only then do we find that he got a quotation, but it snowed too early or there was a frost problem or he ran short of cash and, therefore, the work was not done, but the rents were increased on that projection none the less.

Therefore, it seems reasonable that there should be a system of inspecting whether or not the work has been done and the work of the quality that has been quoted. I can get quotations on any project I want for any amount I want. It is simply a matter of whether the projections are carried out. This would be far more flexible than requiring the landlord to produce contracts and accept the contracts, as has been suggested by some people who want an even more radical form of reform in this manner.

Another bill requires that a landlord who obtains vacant possession of a rental unit for the purpose of making repairs or renovations to apply for the approval of the new rent. Under that bill, the landlord would have to go and justify his costs. Then the new rent would be set based on his legitimate costs, the costs of renovating and the cost of downtime that he had while the apartment was vacant.

What is happening in the downtown areas of many cities is that landlords are using the excuse of renovation as a way of getting out from under rent review. A tenant then is displaced because the landlord is going to create certain changes. Under the Landlord and Tenant Act he is clearly allowed to do that. So the tenant moves, and then cosmetic changes are performed and major increases in the rent are passed on to the new tenant.

Another bill I propose that would improve the Residential Tenancy Act would allow the residential tenancy commissioner to make an independent inquiry into rents being charged by a landlord. I had a very interesting case not so long ago in which I was informed by a constituent that an apartment next door to her mother's was being vacated. She was sure that the landlord was asking a rent which was not justified and which had not gone before the rent review board. I asked the lady to pretend to be a potential tenant and go down there, which she did. She asked how much it would cost to rent the apartment. Of course, the landlord was passing on an illegal rent increase.

When I called the Etobicoke rent review office, the director of the office was very helpful and I think he is a very conscientious public employee. The director said, "Yes, we know that landlord. We get all kinds of complaints. We catch him at the most about 10 per cent of the time." But the fact is that the evidence that I could present, a sworn affidavit that he had asked for this amount of money, was not sufficient. The only thing that could be done

would be to wait until the apartment was rented, go to the new tenant and ask the new tenant to lay a complaint.

A lot of tenants are intimidated by this. Some of them are new Canadians and are not used to the system. They are afraid to take on any kind of challenge of authority. Others simply do not know what the previous rent was. Until now there is no requirement, until certain sections of the new act are proclaimed, to even have that disclosed in the kind of public way that has been advocated in the act.

Surely there must be a way by which the residential tenancy commissioner will have the right to investigate those landlords who are well known to them, those landlords who have a reputation for making illegal rent increases. These people simply must be punished in a way that is appropriate. Instead, what we have now is a system wherein about 10 per cent are caught and are told, "You are a naughty boy. You are not allowed to do that." And they have to roll back the rent to what it should have been. If the average bank robber could win 90 per cent of his heists, he would be a lot more successful than most bank robbers are; yet we allow landlords to do that kind of thing.

There are other things I believe need to be done on behalf of tenants that I have not spoken of yet in this House on other occasions. I am pleased to see that Mr. Lewis, the chief election oficer of the province, is here in the House because I am sure that a couple of these proposals will be of interest to him. At least I hope they will be of interest to him.

One of the bills that I propose is to require that a polling place for provincial election be provided in every residential premise in which there are more than 250 voters residing. I was struck by the fact that in the election that just passed there were a number of buildings in my riding that were fairly far from the polls. Some buildings that were fairly far from the polling stations did not have polling booths, while other buildings that were closer to the polls did have polling stations in them. The voter turnout was not very high in some of those buildings. Part of the reason for that is that a lot of people were new to the riding; perhaps part of it was that a lot of people were not familiar with the system or were transients. Maybe they did not have the same kind of roots in the community.

In one building in particular, 75 Tandridge, an Ontario Housing Corporation project, I was struck by the fact that in the municipal election the poll was in the building. A number of people who are crippled or in some way disabled are in that building. There are also a great number of seniors in that OHC project. Luckily, through volunteers who had some minibuses, we were able to get those people out to the polls without a tremendous amount of discomfort. But if that had been one of the terrible wintry days we experienced during the election, those people at 75 Tandridge would have had a disastrous time trying to get out.

9:50 p.m.

As it turned out, some of them could not even make it to the position of being able to get into a van, which requires a certain amount of stepping and so forth and, therefore, did not vote. It should be required that a landlord provide space, where that space is available, to the government for purposes of an election and that unless there are insurmountable problems regarding that location the polling station be held in that. That is why I will be introducing a bill that will amend the Residential Tenancies Act and the Election Act to deal with that problem.

We have talked about the ways in which we in the New Democratic Party would strengthen rent review, would strengthen tenants' rights and would strengthen the Residential Tenancies Act, rather than nibble away at it as has been suggested by the government and by certain members on the other side of the House.

The removal of rent review would actually reduce the number of rental units, not increase it. This becomes very evident if one looks at what has happened in Alberta. In Alberta the cry was "Remove rent review and you will increase the number of units." In fact, the number of rental unit starts is now at a 14-year low. A major problem is not just the Tory government out there, but it is also the Liberal government in Ottawa which has extremely high interest rates. There was no increase in rental units in Alberta when the Conservative government removed rent review and construction of rental units is now at a 14-year low. Even more interesting is the fact that in Alberta conversions from rental to condominium increased after rent review.

I found that hard to understand until I attended the First International Condominium Convention which was held here in Toronto. I was the only member of the Legislature present. There were a couple of elected municipal representatives there but no representative of either the provincial or federal Parliament, other than myself.

I found the developers' sessions particularly

interesting because I learned more about what was really going on out there by listening to the developers than from any kind of session I might have had among some of my colleagues and friends in the condominium movement whose views I have become fairly familiar with over the last few years. One of the sessions was by a developer from Alberta who said, "Well, it is very simple. You get rent review removed in Ontario and conversions become possible."

The economics go like this. If one has a $1-million building, one wants to sell it off in units for $2 million. One of the things one needs do do is to sell a large number of units to the people who are renting in the building.

I attended a number of sessions by these people who are experts in getting people to convert and in getting it through municipal governments. They say that the economics of it are that one wants to get in and out in six months and that, if possible, one wants to sell about 40 to 50 per cent of the units to people living in the building.

However, as the fellow from Alberta pointed out, as long as one has rent review, one cannot double the price of a building and get 40 to 50 per cent of the people to buy. They will not buy. What one needs to come in, with today's interest rates and market, is at a price where the mortgage is not much more than $40 or $50 a month more than the rent that is paid. His scenario was, "You should see what we are doing in Alberta. Once rent review went off, rents increased and then we could come in and convert because those people out there were motivated to buy their unit."

One of the speakers at the convention was Ralph Nader who pointed out what was happening in the United States where in a large number of states there are no anti-conversion laws. Quebec has anti-conversion legislation; we do not. It is controlled to a large extent by municipalities and, luckily, in a good many municipalities we have been able to prevent some of the larger abuses. But the fact is, as he says, there are elderly people who are literally being put out on the street by this massive move to conversion. It appeals to a basic insecurity in the population. They see their rents going up and up and up and they say, "My goodness, I have at least got to get a piece of the action to protect myself from inflation."

While the new Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Walker) may be a failure in his present post, certainly the Minister of Housing (Mr. Bennett), who has had more experience, is a complete disaster. This is the do-nothing minister, if there ever was one. He is the one who is reported to have said in Ottawa —I do not have the quote in front of me—a couple of years ago that he saw no need for a Ministry of Housing. So he is the minister in charge of a ministry that should not exist, in his opinion, if that is a correct quote that was attributed to him by a tenants' group I met with in Ottawa.

In Metro Toronto we are facing a crisis. In Metro for 1980 the medium family income was $27,057. The average was $27,800. The fact is that at current interest rates of about 17 or 18 per cent—as of today they are even higher than that—that means the medium family income can afford no more than $50,000 for a house. That also means about half the families in Toronto cannot afford to buy a house.

In March 1981, according to the Toronto Real Estate Board, only 17.9 per cent of houses sold were priced at $50,000 or under, in comparison to last March when 24 per cent of the houses were so priced. One can see how fast the market is moving. In other words, half the families in Metro are excluded from over 80 per cent of the houses that were sold in March 1981. Only 17.9 per cent of those looking to buy a house in March 1981 found one for under $50,000. The same families were excluded from 32 per cent of apartment condominiums and 63 per cent of town houses.

Affordability is not a crisis, as the minister contends, only in the core area of Metro. In my area the statistics are not as dramatic, but people are moving from the downtown area into Rexdale and Scarborough because they can no longer afford to live downtown.

This is the minister who said he did not understand the relevance of my statement when I said to him the other day, "In your presentation to the justice committee concerning Ontario Housing, you have stated how opposed you were to ghettoizing groups of people, to having ghettos for the poor." That was part of the rationalization he used for saying, "Well, we have to have the rent supplement programs," or, as I call them, the landlord supplement programs.

If ghettos are improper for the poor, why should we have ghettos for the rich, which are what are being created in downtown Toronto? Why is it that only the upper-middle class and the class above it, only the moneyed people, should be able to live in downtown Toronto? The aldermen will say that now under nonprofit

housing, under the city's scheme with the government, rents are going up astronomically at downtown Toronto market prices.

The suburbs are the places, such as my riding, that he seems to want to send the poor from downtown Toronto out to. Statistics reporting the average price of residential units, including condominiums, for each of the 50 districts for the first three months in 1981 are interesting because not one of these 50 districts recorded an average price of $50,000 or under, which is the price level at which half of our population can afford to buy a home.

We cannot say then that the people who cannot afford to live downtown can go out and live in Rexdale or Scarborough or Peel, because half of them simply cannot afford to buy a home there either. Along the same lines, for the week of April 18, 1981, the prices at which houses were listed in Scarborough—which is an area in many ways similar to the area that I represent—were such that of the 910 units listed, only 109, or 12 per cent, were at the $50,000-level or less. Of these 109 units, only two, or 1.8 per cent, were actually houses. What the minister is saying is that if one happens to be an average family that has not got into the housing market yet, if one happens to be unfortunate enough to be young or for whatever reason has not bought yet, then one has only one option, and that is to buy either a town house or an apartment, but one will never stand a chance in Toronto of buying a detached home.

I say that is a form of ghettoizing people. That is a form of creating ghettos as rigid as if the minister was to take all of the poor people and say, "We are going to build massive government housing in one area and we are going to put you all over there and do not bother us." Ghettoizing of the rich in the downtown area and the middle and poor people in the suburbs is what is being done by this minister by his inaction.

In my riding there are foreign-owned companies and western Canadian companies that are buying up condominiums, both townhouses and apartment units. I had an interesting experience the other night when I called a real estate agent who is a friend of mine. Some people came into my constituency office and said that they had an unhappy breakup of their marriage and needed an apartment. They asked if I knew of an apartment or had some suggestions since they would have quite a waiting time for Ontario Housing because their income happened to be in the $15,000 or $16,000 a year range and there were so many poorer people who were on the waiting list.

I called this friend and said to him, "I have a family here that needs a two-bedroom apartment." "No problem." he said. "If they have $425 a month, guarantee them I will get them a condominium two-bedroom apartment to rent." He said, "That is how I sell them now. I have a long waiting list of speculators in Vancouver and some of them even farther west than that or farther east as the case may be. It is foreign money. The way in which I sell these units now is that, first of all, I come up with somebody who is willing to sign at least a one-year lease and is willing to pay at least $425 for a two-bedroom. Then I call them up and say, 'I have got you a tenant.' They say, 'Fine, we will buy.'"

One must ask what that is going to do? What are those speculators going to do in another year or so? This real estate agent said, "It is very simple. They are in Toronto today. Tomorrow"—tomorrow being perhaps next year or maybe only six months from now—"they will be in Montreal. After that it will be either St. John's or Halifax. That is what they will do."

Very simply then what does that do to local people—people living in Ontario? It decreases their possibility of ever owning a home. These people will leave and they will leave the people to whom they sell with high mortgages that they will be paying for the next 25 years at inflated prices for both rental and owned accommodation.

It also means that a tenant of one of those speculator-owned apartments is placed in double jeopardy. First, the condominium owners resent tenants in their building. The idea of a condominium is collective decision making, and tenants do not have that relationship, the same feeling of responsibility that an owner has. They are used to relating to a landlord whose responsibility is to do things for them, not to have a say in how the building is run.

Second, when the speculator sells the apartment, perhaps after two years at the most, the new owner, quite naturally, wants to take possession of the unit and the tenant must vacate according to the Landlord and Tenant Act. That is the kind of insensitive activity we shall see happening in those condominiums when the market peaks in about a year or perhaps even six months.

The Minister of Housing says that he is conducting a survey. One must ask what is he surveying, whom is he consulting and who prepared the questions? Tuesday night I attended the Etobicoke Condominium Association meeting and looked at the form that was being used

by Condominium Ontario for its survey. My conclusion is that the ministry knows very well how to rig a survey. One must ask, again, who has the minister consulted in preparing this survey?

Mr. Cassidy: The developers.

Mr. Philip: Certainly it isn't the tenants because I checked with them. I asked if they had been consulted by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations or by the Minister of Housing in conection with the questionnaire that is being sent out. The answer is of course not. But one may be sure that the Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada, his friends the developers, are being consulted and that the questions will be put in such a way as to rationalize the kind of research or propaganda that the minister wants to collect.

It is one thing to understand the Minister of Housing in an intellectual way. It is another thing to understand in an emotional way what the Minister of Housing is all about. Those of us who sat on the standing committee on administration of justice saw the Minister of Housing at his worst. The greatest thing that could have happened for both the New Democratic Party and the Liberal Party would have been to have taken the committee on the road so that as many tenants as possible could have met the Minister of Housing. That would have created more votes for us than anything both parties could have done for themselves.

Mr. Cassidy: He thinks he is going to be the Premier one day, but he is never going to make it.

Mr. Philip: I understand his mother wanted him to be the Premier.

One needed only to watch the minister operate in that committee. We sat for a number of weeks, getting ideas from the development industry, from tenant groups and from social planning organizations, all of which had excellent briefs. People had sweated a great deal, thought a great deal and presented some excellent and constructive proposals. One had only to talk to the staff of Ontario Housing Corporation to understand that. They admitted: "Yes, there are things that we didn't know about. We are sensitive to them now as as result of this inquiry."

The minister refused to be present himself or to allow his parliamentary assistant to attend the hearings. He said he wanted to appear only at the end of the hearings. One would have thought that at the very least he could have come in and said, as OHC officials said to me privately, "We would like to thank you for the work you have done. It has been of help to the ministry, and these are some of the ideas I agree with."

10:10 p.m.

He might at least have agreed with some of the ideas of the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Toronto, but he did not. He came in for an hour and a half and delivered apologetics of the worst kind. This is a minister who has no flexibility. Surely he could have accepted one or two out of the hundreds of excellent ideas this report contains on how to improve public housing and how to deliver it to the poor. The minister could find nothing to compliment. He spent all of his time defending the status quo.

When one meets with that kind of rigidity in a minister, one has a real problem. In private industry somebody like that would be considered untrainable and would be eased out of a management position. If one looks at the Blake and Mouton grid, which is often used in management training, he would be a 19 or a 91. I forget which as I have been out of the training business for a while. At the very least he could have found something he could have used. He could have been diplomatic and said, "I will consider ideas A, B, C or D," but he did not do that.

I would like to deal with some of the excellent proposals of the standing committee on administration of justice hearings on Ontario Housing. Members on that committee, such as the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane) of the Conservative Party and the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) of the Liberal Party, for example, worked as a team. I think we came out with an excellent report. It is fairly evident by his response that the minister does not like it. None the less, some of the members on that side of the House are concerned about efficiency in management. They want Ontario Housing Corporation to run both efficiently and humanely.

One of the members from Etobicoke liked to talk a lot about efficiency when he was a controller. I did not always agree because most of the time I did not agree with his methods. None the less, I do agree with one basic point, and that is that inefficient government is not human. It is insensitive government. If we do not have efficiency, the people we are serving are the first to suffer. I think the new member for Humber (Mr. Kells), who replaced my friend John MacBeth, who was certainly a great man in this House, would at least agree with some of this.

From September to December 1980 the standing committee on administration of justice accepted representations from individual OHC tenants and from tenant associations on virtually every matter related to OHC. The hearings resulted in 119 recommendations, which are contained in this report. I hope we will have an evening to debate them. I do not have time tonight to go into them in detail, but I would like to cover a few of the key ideas.

I feel this report goes a long way towards addressing the major concerns raised by the tenants. Moreover, since the report deals with the issues of the expansion of public housing in opening up eligibility to all needy people, its impact extends to individuals and to families that at the present are not able to obtain housing assistance.

During the committee hearings one of the witnesses was an economist who, when he was a student, had been a resident of Ontario Housing. He said to me, "If you really want to understand what is happening in downtown Toronto among single people, all you have to do on a cold night"—

Mr. Nixon: Now you have my attention.

Mr. Philip: I think you have a different idea of what we are talking about.

He said: "If you really want to understand what is happening in the housing of single people"—the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk has just gone back to sleep—"you have only to go into the underground garages at city hall. There you will find, sleeping on the staircases, people who are regularly displaced by this city."

One interesting thing was that one night during the hearings we passed a bus shelter in which three women, about 50 or 55 years old, were huddled together, trying to sleep in the bus shelter. Surely that is not the kind of thing that should take place in a civilized city and province like Ontario.

Evidence before the committee indicated that current OHC waiting lists, for a number of reasons, do not accurately reflect the real demand for low and moderate income housing. In the first place, only families with dependent children, people over 60 and physically disabled people are eligible for Ontario Housing. Everyone else is automatically excluded even from putting his or her name on a waiting list.

We have single-nesters, people who are not 60 but whose children have left home, or individuals who may have come to this country or province or, indeed, may have grown up here but who, for some reason or other, find themselves without employment. They do not qualify for Ontario or any kind of government housing. Other people who have not applied for assisted housing include those people who are making do at present by renting at below average market rents or by spending less on other items, such as food, so as to pay for housing. Still others may not apply because the length of the waiting lists and the length of time it takes to be offered housing is so long.

The committee's answer to this problem was to recommend that the Minister of Housing (Mr. Bennett) and the Ontario Housing Corporation measure the total demand for assisted housing and then introduce a variety of programs to provide forhe necessary housing. OHC just does not know how many people are in need of that kind of assistance. How can one possibly service a public when one does not know who that public is or how large its numbers are?

The matter of who is eligible for Ontario Housing was also addressed, with the committee concluding that eligibility should be based solely on need. Anyone, regardless of age, marital status, number of dependent children and so forth, would be eligible for rental assistance and people would get this assistance in order of need. The three groups of families, those with children, people over 60 and the physically handicapped, would, of course, continue to be eligible.

The committee also recommended that current tenants who no longer have dependent children, but who are not yet 60 years of age, be allowed to stay in public housing. The present policy is to try to get them to leave or to evict them.

The need for emergency housing also was an area we studied. The housing required on short notice because of marital breakup, domestic violence, sudden financial crisis, eviction or demolition was another important issue. There is rarely a week in which I do not have one, two, three or four people who have no place to go come to my office.

The committee recommended OHC involve itself in the provision of emergency housing—something it does not consider to be its mandate—primarily through the use of housing allowances, but also by allocating empty units in hostels and so forth, particularly in the case of battered wives and their children.

Of particular interest to the current tenants of Ontario Housing are the committee's recommendations for transfer and eviction. One of the interesting things we found as we went around

the province was that there seemed to be a great difference in how transfer policies were being implemented. For example, we feel tenants should have at least one transfer as a right. The Metropolitan Toronto Housing Company grants this. If seniors have the right to at least one transfer for their own personal reasons, why should people who are living in Ontario Housing have any less right.

It could be done—and we suggested this—so that as many transfers as may be needed after that should be allowed, provided the tenant is willing to assume any extra expense the corporation would be put to. As far as eviction is concerned, tenants should be given security of tenure by means of a one-year lease, and repair and repayment agreements should be used whenever possible to avoid eviction.

10:20 p.m.

What we have is kind of a difference in how things are handled in that case. I have a very good working relationship with Mrs. Niddrie who is, in my opinion, a good administrator of Ontario Housing in Metropolitan Toronto. I find that those people who happen to come to me, or those who perhaps come to another member, will get service because that comes to her attention. But I wonder how many thousands are out there, in my riding or in any other riding, who do not go to the MPP and do not get that kind of sympathetic treatment.

We feel that written reasons should be provided for both transfer and eviction decisions. Tenants should have a right to appear with counsel at housing authority board hearings on these matters and should also have the right to appeal to the board of the local housing authority and, from there, to the tenant appeal board, which each housing authority should establish within its jurisdiction.

Tenants would also be helped by recommendations dealing with vandalism and maintenance. Security patrols should be increased. It is interesting how we go about security. I pleaded with the Minister of Housing about three years ago to meet with a deputation of tenants from 75 Tandridge in my riding. It is a high-rise building where the security patrols have been taken off and where vandalism was increasing. I said that if the minister was not available he could appoint either a deputy minister or even somebody further down the line, but that these tenants wanted to share with them what was going on in the building. The minister refused to have any such meeting.

Then a year and a half later, with no security guards, headlines appeared: Racist Attack at 75 Tandridge, or some such thing. Those of us who know the building know it was not a racist attack, or at least the evidence we have suggests that it was not. It suggests that the person who was attacked happened to be East Indian, but it could have been anyone else in the building. It could have been me going in there to service a tenant or to see the manager. It could have been one of the many seniors who were in the building. It could have been anybody who was attacked.

I had told the minister, and the tenants had written to the minister saying there were people coming in from outside the area, from Mississauga and other areas. We said they were smoking up, they were boozing up, they were urinating and defecating in the hallways and they were creating a tremendous problem for the people in the building. For heaven's sake, we asked," Listen to our problems and put in a security system."

The minister refused. But the moment it hit the headlines, boy, did we get security. Then it became a racial incident. Why does it have to be a racial incident to get a few guards in an Ontario Housing project? Surely the threat that some poor little old lady is going to be mugged is every bit as serious as the possibility that somebody from another country may be mugged or that I might be mugged.

The fact is that the minister has been very negligent in listening to those concerns of tenants. Vandalism has increased and security patrols have decreased. We cannot get a figure as to what exactly is being spent on security because it is part of a larger budget. We cannot even get figures on the exact cost of vandalism because they do not distinguish those repairs that are created through vandalism as compared with those repairs that are required through general maintenance and breakdown. Therefore, we do not know what the actual maintenance costs are in terms of vandalism.

How can one evaluate whether security systems and other systems are needed if one does not know what it is costing him at the other end? Maybe my background in business has taught me that in a corporation one looks at these things. Ontario Housing is a corporation and it should be as efficient as any other corporation. Surely that makes basic common sense.

Mr. Speaker: Are you at a convenient spot to stop?

Mr. Philip: Fine, I will do that, Mr. Speaker. If I can have two more minutes, and I believe that I have five minutes before adjournment, I would be happy to sum up.

Finally, the committee's recommendations reflect its concern with the question of whether or not tenants are able to make their views known to the management of OHC. We concluded that they could not and recommended, among other things, that each OHC project hold an annual meeting of tenants and project management for the purpose of discussing budget priorities; that each local housing authority board have an elected tenant representative; that each authority have annual meetings of tenants; and that the OHC board of directors and the Minister of Housing meet with the tenant representatives on a yearly basis.

The minister has refused tenant representation. The minority group on that committee, the minority from the Conservatives, refused to accept tenant representation. Perhaps that is just a sign of the arrogance of the minister. I would like to think so because I do not think the people from the Conservative Party who were on that committee were that arrogant. I suspect that they got their marching orders from the minister. Surely, in a democratic system, even from an efficient management point of view, it makes sense to have the tenants elect a representative. They are the ones who know what is going on. A yearly review of each project and a costing of each project would allow for more efficiency.

What is needed in the Ministry of Housing is a more flexible minister. What is needed is a new minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On motion by Mr. Mitchell, the debate was adjourned.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, before the House adjourns tonight, pursuant to standing order 13, I would like to inform the members of the business of the House for the rest of this week and next week. Tomorrow morning, Monday afternoon, Tuesday afternoon and evening, next Thursday afternoon and evening and next Friday morning, we will continue this throne speech debate.

I might also say that since the motion setting up the personnel and the schedules of our standing committees was put and carried this afternoon the general schedule of meetings each week was approved. I would now just like to remind the House that the clerks will be calling the organizational meetings of the standing committees next week. Perhaps I could just indicate when those meetings will be.

On Monday, May 4, the social development committee will meet in the afternoon. On Wednesday, May 6, meetings of the general government and resources development committees will both be called in the morning. During the morning of Thursday, May 7, the public accounts, regulations and other statutory instruments and procedural affairs committees will hold their inaugural meetings, and then the administration of justice committee and the members' services committee will meet in the afternoon.

The House adjourned at 10:29 p.m.

CONTENTS

Thursday, April 30, 1981

Throne speech debate

Mr. Mackenzie (conclusion). 239
Mr. Kolyn. 246
Ms. Copps. 249
Mr. Philip. 251

Business of the House, Mr. Wells. 262

Adjournment. 262

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
Copps, S. M. (Hamilton Centre L)
Cureatz, S. L.; Deputy Speaker (Durham East PC)
Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)
Mancini, R. (Essex South L)
Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)
Turner, Hon. J. M.; Speaker (Peterborough PC)

Ontario

No. 9

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



First Session, Thirty-Second Parliament
Friday, May 1, 1981

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

An alphabetical list of members of the Legislature of Ontario, together with lists of members of the executive council, the parliamentary assistants and members of the standing committees, also appears at the back as an appendix.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.



Hansard subscription price is $15.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Central Purchasing Service, Print Procurement Section, Ministry of Government Services, 8th Floor, Ferguson Block, Parliament Buildings, Toronto M7A 1N3. Phone (416) 965-2238.

Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Friday, May 1, 1981

The House met at 10:02 a.m.

Prayers.

TRIBUTES TO YAAKOV SUSLENSKY

Mr. Speaker: I would call the attention of all members to a distinguished visitor sitting in the Speaker's gallery in the person of Mr. Yaakov Suslensky. Mr. Suslensky is among the most prominent Jewish dissidents and human rights activists in the Soviet Union. He is a close friend of, and a former inmate of prisons and labour camps with, the famed Mr. Scharansky.

Mr. Suslensky has spent seven years in Soviet prisons, four of which were spent in the dreadful high-security prison of Vladimir. Mr. Suslensky was a Jewish activist in the Ukraine. He has been recently released and is living in Jerusalem, Israel. He is at present making a speaking tour of North America to promote brotherhood. He is also chairman for Jewish/Ukrainian Relations.

He has recently met with such organizations as the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Ukrainian/Canadian Committee, among other organizations, to promote harmony and tolerance among communities and peoples. I would ask all members to join in recognition of Mr. Suslensky.

[Applause.]

Mr. Shymko: I think we are indeed honoured on this special occasion, as our Legislature on many occasions previously has expressed its concerns about the infringements and violations of human rights. I would like to point out that Mr. Yaakov Suslensky symbolizes individuals such as Anatoly Scharansky, individuals who, notwithstanding circumstances quite different from the freedom and democracy we enjoy in Canada, stood for certain principles of inalienable, universal rights. I think under the circumstances of the countries in which they fought for these rights, they are indeed symbols for the rest of humanity.

I would like to point out that on Tuesday of this week, on the occasion of the birthday of Iban Nudel, a special presentation was made to the Honourable Pauline McGibbon from the Toronto Jewish Congress and the Committee for Soviet Jewry, awarding the honour of the Nudel humanitarian award.

Mr. Suslensky was a personal friend of Iban Nudel and the fact he is free today is the result of the intervention of this great lady who has assisted many prisoners of conscience in the Soviet Union. He has also spent four years with Yuri Shukhevych. Many of our members on both sides of this chamber have received a petition to release this man who was arrested at the age of 15 and who has spent the rest of his life until now, at age 46, in prisons and camps. He has been in the Vladimir prison with Yuri Shukhevych and I think can personally tell our members of the tragic circumstances not only of individuals, but of many in the Soviet Union. On behalf of many, I certainly welcome Mr. Yaakov Suslensky.

[Translation from Ukrainian.]

Dear brother Yaakov, we welcome you to Ontario and to Canada, a land of liberty and democracy for many peoples who have escaped tyranny and persecution. All our communities, especially the Jewish and Ukrainian communities who have been victims of holocausts, wish you strength and determination in your great work to make this world more humane and compassionate in our relations with one another.

[End of translation.]

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, it is a real pleasure to see Mr. Yaakov Suslensky with us and to use the occasion of his visit to remember all those who are still the refuseniks, all those who are still unable to leave the Soviet Union for various trumped-up reasons.

The government of the Soviet Union has been in power now for some 63 or 64 years and, under its system, it still does not believe that system can survive having people express their own opinions or choosing to leave the country to live elsewhere. It is a sign of just how shaky that regime must feel inside itself that, 64 years after a revolution, it still cannot tolerate free speech, free thought and freedom of movement. Instead, it puts people like Yaakov Suslensky in concentration camps. Iban Nudel is in exile at least until spring of next year and who knows what they will trump up then. There is Anatoly Scharansky whom we are still waiting to see get just and fair treatment.

It is a regime which should be brought up in front of the United Nations commission on colonialism as the largest colonial regime still in existence in today's world, a regime we should take every opportunity to indicate our total disagreement with and our deep concern about the way it tramples human rights.

Mr. Suslensky is very welcome here as he observed from the ovation given by all three parties. We can only hope his presence among us foretells the day when people like Anatoly Scharansky and Iban Nudel will also be free to come and go as free people should be able to everywhere.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I wish to join in welcoming Mr. Suslensky to this Legislature and to wish him well in the course of his visit to North America when he will undoubtedly be talking about conditions in the Soviet Union and, in particular, about the efforts of the Jewish minority in the Soviet Union to avoid oppression, discrimination and the taking away of those few human rights that are its under the Soviet constitution, usually honoured in the breach rather than in the observance.

10:10 a.m.

I believe all of us in Canada should recognize just how lucky we are, but also recognize an obligation towards Mr. Suslensky's countrymen when he was in the Soviet Union, in particular with respect to the Helsinki Accords which this country signed a few years ago. Among other things, they provided for the first time some commitments to basic human rights, to the access to information and to the freedom from political trials of people who happen to disagree with the regime, of people who simply wish a measure of political liberty and the freedom to lead their lives in peace and quiet as people can in the western world.

Alas, those Helsinki Accords have been honoured in the breach. Alas, Canada has failed in my opinion to pursue systematically the question of the observance of the Helsinki Accords, not just at the time they were reviewed a few months ago, but year after year and month after month. We have failed to indicate very clearly to the Soviet Union and the other countries of the eastern bloc that we take seriously the obligations that were put in that document and believe they should as well.

Our hearts go out to all those who are still in labour camps, those who are still in prisons and those still subjected to the kind of treatment they are receiving in the Soviet Union. Our hearts go out with the hope that those Jews who wish to leave the Soviet Union to go Israel or other parts of the world will be able to get that permission and be able to leave their country as Mr. Suslensky has been able to do. Our hearts go out with the hope that those many Jews who would like to stay in the Soviet Union, but would like to stay under conditions where they are no longer discriminated against as they have been in the past, would be able to achieve their hopes and their dreams.

I think the situation there is a tragic one. I hope the day will come, as may be beginning in Poland, when the working people of the Soviet Union find ways to reform or perhaps even to reform within their regime in order to achieve the ideals that originally motivated the Russian revolution, but which have been betrayed so tragically in the last 60 years.

DEATH OF ERNEST GRIFFITH

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I would draw to the attention of the House the deathof a very distinguished public servant in this province, Mr. Ernest Bradley Griffith, the former general manager of the Toronto Harbour Commission.

I think it is fair to say that in his public service capacity Mr. Griffith was a significant contributor to the vast industrial and commercial growth and development of this province in the post-war years. While his public service was primarily devoted to the port of Toronto, certainly his impact was felt in the industrial and commercial centres across the southern part of this province. Not only many of the things that came with the seaway, but also the quite notable revolution in transportation since that time were accomplished under his administration at the harbour commission.

I am sure the Legislature will join with me in extending our condolences to the family and in marking this recognition of a most distinguished public servant.

REDIRECTION OF QUESTIONS; QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Speaker: I have answers to points of order and points of privilege that were raised earlier.

On Tuesday last Mr. Mancini raised a point of order concerning supplementary questions being directed to another minister. I have had an opportunity to review the comments of the members participating in the discussion on the point of order, and I have also reviewed and weighed very carefully the remarks of my predecessors on this matter.

A minister to whom a question is put is given a wide latitude of discretion. He may answer a question, defer a question for further consideration or take it as noted, or he may decline to answer the question without stating a reason for the refusal. A minister may also refer a question not within his administrative responsibility to another minister.

The chair enjoys discretion in allowing the question and certainly in allowing the supplementary questions. It seems to me that if and when supplementaries are allowed, there should be a follow-up device flowing from the response of a particular minister. They should not be redirected to a different minister. Members who have questions for other ministers should seek to be recognized on a new question. I suggest that otherwise they are merely trying to get questions out of turn.

I ask for the co-operation of all members on this matter to ensure that the question period runs smoothly and with maximum participation from all members.

Yesterday Mr. Roy, on a point of order, asked me to look into the question of whether or not the raising of matters of privilege during the question period should be included in the 60 minutes allowed for that period.

I suggest it is obvious that when the alleged breach of privilege relates to the question just asked, then in accordance with standing order 18 it must be taken up immediately and must consequently be included within the 60 minutes. If the matter refers to something completely unrelated to the current question, such as something said yesterday or something in a newspaper report, it should be taken up either before or after the question period.

Mr. Cassidy: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: With reference to your first ruling, it is not entirely clear to me exactly what you are saying but I believe you are saying that another member, on a supplementary, may not redirect from the minister who originally responded to the first question to a different minister. I would like you to clarify that.

I would also like you to clarify the situation where a minister gets up, passes the buck and says, "I am not responsible" and sits down. We often see that from the ministers. If I understand it correctly, you have not ruled on whether it would then be possible for the member who originally raised the question to redirect it to the minister whom the answering minister seems to say is responsible. Could you respond to those two questions, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: The point of order which was raised referred only to supplementary questions. When a supplementary is directed to a particular minister to whom the original question was directed, then the supplementary must also be directed to that minister. If you want to ask a question of another minister, it must be a new question.

Mr. Cassidy: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Are you saying then that it is not possible to redirect or are you saying that it is possible to redirect but only as a consequence of the original question and as a result of the original reply by the minister?

Mr. Speaker: I am saying that members cannot redirect on a supplementary. They may, of course, redirect on an original question.

ORAL QUESTIONS

GRANTS TO PULP AND PAPER COMPANIES

Mr. Smith: I have a question for the Minister of Industry and Tourism regarding pulp and paper grants. During the campaign, the Financial Post of March 14, 1981, reported that the Ontario government plans to add $20 million more, plus the $10 million from the federal government, to its so-called pulp and paper modernization program.

Could the minister tell this House what documentation convinces him of the need to give an additional $20 million of taxpayers' money to pulp and paper companies, given the prosperity which exists in that sector, the high profitability, and the number of takeover bids that are quite prevalent in that sector? What is the documentation that makes the minister feel that without that $20 million of Ontario money, the companies could not afford to undertake modernization? Could he present the documentation to the House?

10:20 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The documentation has been presented to this House on several occasions. It certainly has been presented in estimates on several occasions. I believe the member will find that the Duncan Allan report sets out all the needs of the industry and the last $20 million, which he is referring to, is the balance necessary to complete the entire modernization of the pulp and paper industry in this province. He has had the documentation for quite some time.

Mr. Smith: Supplementary: The documentation referred to is basically a 1977 report, and the four years that have passed since that time have turned out to be four of the most profitable years in the history of the pulp and paper industry. Is the minister saying we have to continue giving public money to these companies that can afford to modernize without it?

Is he saying we have to do that because this—to use his words—completes the program? In other words, since so many companies have already received public money, it is only fair and reasonable the remainder get their hand into the till as well. Is that what the minister is saying?

How does he justify giving public money to companies that are now the subject of competitive takeover bids because they are so prosperous they are seen as excellent vehicles for investment by people in the market, and by larger companies looking to acquire excellent potential for the future? How does he justify giving public money to those people who do not need it when so many people, hospitals and individuals alike, do not get the money they require?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Had the member read the report that was produced in the latter days of 1978, not 1977, and accepted and reanalysed by this government in 1979, he would have seen the current rather healthy situation in terms of income for the pulp and paper companies was anticipated. If one looks at the history of the industry over the last 50 or 60 years, there have been periods during which there have been very healthy performance and takeover bids. That has not resulted in the necessary modernization process this province needs. In fact, the very healthy situation the pulp and paper industry finds itself in today is one in which the industries may well look to what are called greenfield plants in other jurisdictions.

The Leader of the Opposition must surely be aware of some of this because he has reached certain conclusions which obviously are in concert with those of this government. I might quote the Leader of the Opposition: "With regard to the actual matter of using provincial funds, I want to make it clear that I do not oppose provincial programs to assist the pulp and paper industry. Provided the funds are given under Department of Regional Economic Expansion arrangement, I am not opposed to the actual handing out of money."

Mr. Smith: Read the whole letter, please.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I sure will. "I do believe, however, that it is wrong to set up a provincial fund administered with only the vaguest set of rules and guidelines." That is quite—

Mr. Smith: Everybody read that one, it's old news.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes, but the member was not here the day we beat up his Treasury critic. That's old news? Well, I say to the Leader of the Opposition that was his policy one year ago. At exactly the same time, his policy was that he was opposed to the pulp and paper grants. I understand the politics of what he writes to the northern Ontario mayors as opposed to what he says down here. Even he, reading this letter he wrote himself and signed, will understand that he is, in that letter, accepting the premise that the pulp and paper industry needed some provincial assistance to modernize.

If that situation has changed, perhaps he might be kind enough to write the mayors of the northern municipalities and indicate to them that the position he took February 15, 1980, is not the position he takes on May 1, 1981. Those are the facts as they sit. Just so he knows where we stand and have always stood on modernization of the pulp and paper industry in northern Ontario, we believe the money was necessary. We believe the $1.5 billion renovation program, 85 per cent sourced in Canada, simply would not have happened without the aggressive intervention of this government.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, we all know the process of evaluation that occurs within the government on social programs and is used by the government to enforce a systematic series of cutbacks in terms of programs, and cutbacks in terms of needed services in the area of social services of Ontario. Would the minister tell the House what evaluation process has gone forward since those grants have been provided? Has that evaluation not touched on each particular grant? Will the minister now table in this Legislature the evaluation process to show whether or not those grants were justified and how much the people of the province would be earning now if the grants had been accompanied by equity for the people of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: May I simply say the proof is that there was a substantial renovation of the industry undertaken. Members will recall that when the report came out it was anticipated we would be able to lever about $3 for every $1 the provincial government put up. As a result of further discussions with the industry and chang-

ing economic conditions, this government, through tough and difficult negotiating, was able to lever $9 or $10 for every $1 that this government put up. As a result, for about $100 million, with a portion of that being shared by DREE, we end up with a $1.5 billion renovation program, which is far greater than was anticipated originally.

If members want a measure of how the program is proceeding, let me say that originally it looked as if we would get about one third to one half of that kind of modernization for the money we are prepared to put up. In point of fact, we got enormous economic benefits for this province. We got $1.5 billion to date, 85 per cent of which is going to occur in Canada.

That is the report to the taxpayers of this province and I say to the leader of the third party, it would be difficult for him to find very many other government programs which had that kind of return for the taxpayers of this province.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Does the minister recall the meeting that some of the members of the Legislature, the minister included, had with the Ontario pulp and paper industry over at Sutton Place—a very nice breakfast—at which I asked the assembled executives of that esteemed organization what they thought of this program. Their response was, "As an industry, we do not agree with those grants and we do not need them."

Is the minister aware of the recent Lakehead University study which says, "Millions wasted in forest industry grants," and in which a pulp and paper executive indicated, and I quote, "that his company did not need a grant but took the money anyway because all the other firms were"? They were going to have that investment anyway. The minister has blown $200 million.

The other thing, by way of supplementary, is that as usual, the minister has got the horse by the wrong end. With his government's forestry policies, there are not going to be any trees to put through those mills in 15 years anyway. That money should have gone into reforestation.

An hon. member: Tell us about the breakfast meeting.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes, I will tell you about the breakfast meeting. The industry, at that time, did not give quite the answer I might have thought it ought to have given. It was my misfortune to be sitting with a lot of members of the opposition at the table at that time. What in fact the industry was saying that morning, by my recollection of it—and I think mine is correct because I was not overjoyed by its kind of response and I did communicate that to the representatives—was that it was not that the industry did not need it; they said they were opposed to it philosophically, but—

Mr. Sweeney: But they would take it.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Well. They were opposed to it philosophically but felt that kind of money was going to be needed in order to ensure the existence—

Mr. T. P. Reid: They didn't say that at all.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: They certainly did. May I say to the honourable member that he may wish to write the association and ask them to give their version of what they said that morning and then we can discuss it here. That is certainly my recollection. That is clearly what they said.

10:30 a.m.

The honourable member will recall that certain other members of the industry—the honourable member should just calm down or I will read more of his letters—he will recall other members of the industry followed that overall presentation, standing up and pointing out how their particular company found it absolutely necessary to have that funding or else their greenfield opportunities and alternatives in other locations would be ones they would have to look at.

I say to the member for Rainy River that the fact of the matter is, if he looks at the situation in Dryden, members from all sides of this House were standing up asking questions and were worried about the future of Dryden. In point of fact there was a mill there that could not be sold. Every purchaser in the world had been in there and, without this government participating, I challenge the member for Rainy River or even his leader, who believes he knows even more about the pulp and paper industry, to say that the mill in Dryden would have been purchased. That just is not the case. I should say one other thing. It is quite one thing—

Mr. T. P. Reid: They bought it because the government agreed to look after the mercury claims.

Mr. Smith: They bought it because the government indemnified them on mercury and the minister knows it.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The Leader of the Opposition, of course, in his interjection is only confirming the fact that the mill could not have

been sold, was not marketable, would not have been bought without this government's participation.

Mr. Smith: They didn't need your money.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: A moment ago in the member's interjection he said they bought it only because this government did something. Now he is telling me they did not need it. He can take his choice this morning of what he said a year ago or last month.

May I say to the member for Rainy River, who is legitimately interested in this matter, that the problem the government has is this: It can take the best advice it can obtain—and I have to say to the members of this House the Duncan Allan task force in my view was the best advice obtainable; I would stack Duncan Allan against the Lakehead University report any day.

We are faced with this choice. As a government, we do not have the luxury that members of the opposition, Lakehead University and others have of perusing a situation and saying, "It is our opinion it would have happened without the money." I will tell the member that as a province we can afford for people who take that view to be right, but we cannot afford for those people to be wrong.

The plain fact of the matter is that if they are wrong, if those people at Lakehead University are wrong—and that is not beyond the realm of possibility—then one sees the disappearance of Espanola, of Dryden, of Iroquois Falls. This government feels that over a period of five years, during which this government will spend approximately $100 billion, a $100-million expenditure to ensure catastrophe does not arrive at Iroquois Falls, Kapuskasing and other fine municipalities in the north is a wise expenditure for this government.

UNIVERSITY FUNDING

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Colleges and Universities regarding the funding of universities in Ontario. Having had a chance to look at the operating expenditures, the operating grants per capita and per student, is she aware we are now not only the lowest in Canada but we are now among all state and provincial jurisdictions the lowest except for Colorado, Michigan, Pennsylvania and South Dakota? Apart from those four states, Ontario is now funding its university sector at the lowest rate of all jurisdictions, provincial or state, in Canada and the United States of America.

Given that one Brian Segal, whose brother is known to the minister, said on April 13 of this year that the province is "underfunding the system and it is running down," is the minister finally prepared to fight with people like the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Grossman), who wants to give hundreds of millions of dollars to rich corporations, and get some money for the university sector of this province so that it can play its rightful role in our economic development?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to see that the Leader of the Opposition has been doing some reading for a change, but I am not aware of any report based on any valid information that provides that kind of comparison. When certain individuals begin comparisons, they select very carefully some of the matters which they wish to compare and they do not include all of the relevant matters.

There is no way that I am aware of in which one can with validity make accurate comparisons about the level of university funding in the various jurisdictions in Canada. Although we have agreed to eight methods, or eight different criteria, they do not include the investment which Ontario has made in universities in the past and the amount of effort that has been taken in the past to staff those universities, and they certainly do not include the factors of economy of scale which must be a part of this.

I have not seen figures relating this specific set of invidious comparisons to American colleges. However, I would remind the honourable member that the universities are extremely important social institutions in our society and they have been given a level of government support which has been consistent in terms of the gross provincial product for the past five years.

I would also remind members opposite that one cannot maintain valid and productive social institutions which can grow unless a jurisdiction has an economic base from which to derive revenues in order to provide funds to make them grow.

Mr. Smith: By way of supplementary, it sounds as though the minister is saying that Ontario's economy is not growing very well. I did not hear her say that earlier.

Is the minister familiar with the tripartite committee on interprovincial comparisons of university expenditures? This report was contained in the report of the Council of Ontario Universities, which pointed out that Ontario's operating grants increased at a slower rate than

in any other province during the period 1974 to 1981 and that in terms of operating grants per university enrolment we were fifth in 1974 and are last in 1980-81.

The gap between Ontario's grants per student and the average for the rest of Canada was $812, which is a pretty staggering difference. As for student expenditures in this province compared to others, even if the minister wants to add in her student aid money, it only brings us to seventh, and I do not think that aid money should be added.

In operating grants per capita we are ninth. In total expenditures by total personal income per province we are tenth. Is it not about time the minister recognized the importance of science, technology, research and the university sector in leading the recovery in our economic performance in this province and started funding them properly?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to hear the Leader of the Opposition's paranoid, schizophrenic approach to all of this matter. As usual, he was distorting my words and my intent, and I understand that. His background is such that this would happen.

There is also a small problem perhaps of a little bit of vested interest since he is interested after next year in going back to the university which employed him in order to maintain a certain level of income.

There are more factors which should be considered in interprovincial comparisons, and those factors are not being considered by the group. The measure of student assistance, I do believe, is an important inclusion which should be considered in these comparisons because it does provide the opportunity for about 30 per cent of our university students to attend the universities. If that is not an important factor in the continuing viability of the universities, I do not know what is.

10:40 a.m.

As I said before, there are other comparisons which should be made, but I do believe the Leader of the Opposition was not listening carefully to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor on opening day because there was no doubt at all that the speech from the throne made a very strong commitment to science, technology and advanced education, and those commitments will be carried out.

Mr. Grande: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: The minister says that for the past four years the universities have been well taken care of through provincial funds when in fact they have been starved of provincial funds. Is the minister aware that Atkinson College department for part-time students is going to be cut back by $440,000, which in effect means that 100 courses will be cut there next September? Is this the best educational system in North America that the minister talks about, or is it the worst educational system in North America?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, we have some absolutely first-class universities in this province, including one, at least, that I think is considered generally to be world class. It is the intention of this government to provide whatever assistance it can to enable those universities to maintain that quality and to improve it.

I am aware that certain activities are taking place at Atkinson, York University and at others in which the potential enrolment of students seems to be declining as the interest of students moves in other directions. I am also aware that there are certain structural rigidities in the university organization which prevent some of the universities from making the appropriate shifts which would compensate for some of the activities which must be maintained.

That is a major problem for the universities. I hope our special committee will be looking at those problems during the hearings they will be holding with the universities, based on their first interim report which was issued on February 28 of this year. That committee, which is a tripartite committee, has the specific responsibility to attempt to provide some kinds of answers, guidance and direction which will be helpful in terms of universities and the government for the next decade.

FILM PRODUCTION COURSES

Mr. Cassidy: I have a new question, Mr. Speaker, of the Minister of Colleges and Universities about the role of the community colleges in helping a major new industry which is expanding in Ontario. Would the minister explain why, at a time when film production in Canada has risen from next to nothing to a business worth $175 million in five or six years, with much of the production here in Ontario, we have seen decisions by Conestoga College, as well as by Algonquin College in Ottawa, to eliminate their schools in film production, thereby eliminating a major source of the technicians who are required to make that industry work?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that there are similar courses in

other community colleges in the province which could accommodate for the most part most of the employment potential in that industry. I am aware that the college system is attempting to find ways of directing their educational programs to be of benefit to the largest number of students without unnecessary duplication.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: In the first place, does the minister not believe that people outside of Metropolitan Toronto, where the only other course is provided, should have the opportunity to enter industries as important as the film industry? Secondly, is the minister not aware that applications have been running at four to six for every place available at Algonquin College school of film production and that a large number of graduates are getting jobs with that industry, which needs them? Why is the government cutting off its nose to spite its face by depriving a major new industry of the kind of people who are required in order that the industry may prosper in the 1980s?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the government does not make the decisions about the addition or the removal of courses at the community college level. Those decisions are made by the board of governors of that institution, based upon the community colleges' responsibility to the province, to the students and to the entire system. They are attempting to work now in a co-operative way to ensure that there will be courses of the limited employment opportunity type offered in various regions of the province.

They are attempting to ensure that not all of those courses will be concentrated in Metropolitan Toronto, and that is one of the activities for which I applaud the board of governors of the community colleges. They are really attempting to ensure that equal educational opportunity is made as freely available as it is possible to do in a province as diverse as this province.

Mr. Boudria: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: I wonder if the minister is aware that the film courses in French at Algonquin College have been eliminated. Would she be kind enough to tell us where in Ontario similar courses are available, to use her words?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I shall take that as notice because I am not aware at this point whether that course has been eliminated. I think there was a projection for elimination, but I shall verify that and report to the House.

HOSPITAL WORKERS

Mr. Cassidy: I have a question for the Minister of Labour, Mr. Speaker, respecting equities for the working people of Ontario. Does the minister consider it equitable that doctors should get an increase in their incomes averaging $12,000 a year, with no restrictions on their right to withdraw their services, while at the current time the annual average income for hospital workers is $12,948 and they are under very severe limitations to exercise any of the rights that other workers in the province enjoy?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I am not going to comment on the fairness or appropriateness of the settlement made with the doctors. I think the member himself has indicated approval with the catch-up proportion of that award, nor do I intend to get into any discussion about the economic problems of hospital workers at a point in time where an arbitration commission is deliberating on those very matters.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary: Given that the government was prepared to provide kid-glove treatment for the doctors with respect to their pay increase, giving them catch-up and not even uttering the breath of a whisper of the possibility of a suggestion that the doctors should be required to stop the extra billing of opted-out doctors as a condition of getting that settlement, is the minister prepared to intervene in order to get the Ontario Hospital Association to stop its suspensions and to rehire the workers who have been fired as a consequence of the events of two months ago?

Is the minister prepared to intervene and ensure that efforts are made to restore the morale of hospital workers and give them the same kind of treatment that has been given to the doctors in the province?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, if I may deal with the last part of that question first, I will just reiterate that the issue of the level of income with regard to hospital workers is a matter which is now before a board of arbitration consisting of a representative of labour and of management and an independent chairman. All of the unions involved in hospital bargaining are presenting briefs to that commission, and I do not intend to get involved in any discussion about the appropriateness of income levels because that is a matter that is being resolved by what I think the member will agree is, a fair commission.

With regard to the issue of dismissals and other remedies that hospitals felt necessary in

the light of the illegal strike activity, as the member well knows, I appointed a committee of two, including a representative of labour and management, in February to try to help the hospitals and workers who were involved in such reprimands to reach an agreeable accommodation on certain issues and certain matters, and that is taking place now. I intend that it will continue to take place and I think the results are encouraging.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: In view of the fact that at least seven out of 10 provinces allow their hospital workers, or most of the hospital workers, to take strike action and in view of what has happened, is the minister or the ministry reviewing the present legislation with a view to changing the law in this regard and allowing them to strike?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, if there is a review of the present legislation taking place, it is not with regard to the matter of whether or not there should be a right to strike. The present law, which says that there is no right to strike, will remain in place.

10:50 a.m.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: In view of the impact on labour relations and on the quality of hospital and health care in the province in the coming years as a consequence of the actions by the hospital association and its member hospitals, is the minister prepared to step in personally and to urge the hospitals to revoke the suspensions and to urge the hospitals to undo the firings of workers that have taken place in order to ensure that morale can be restored and we can have decent health conditions in the hospitals of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I think I have indicated very explicitly that I have intervened through the appointment of a joint management-labour team. They are acting very effectively to help resolve those matters.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding the appointment of that committee, is the minister prepared to say that the action that has been taken by several hospital boards on a rather erratic basis is an action which discriminates against some of the hospital workers vis-a-vis the treatment they have received?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I do not think the member is going to get into making accusations of discrimination and I do not intend to get into discussions about whether or not there was. If there are valid accusations of discrimination, the member knows the channels to go through to have them evaluated.

I have to tell the member in all fairness that the matter of employee relations is a matter that relates to the employer and the employee, in this case the hospital and its employees. What I have said and will reiterate very clearly is that we have endeavoured to assist those hospitals and those employees to resolve any matters relating to reprimands or dismissals or whatever, through a joint management-labour committee. I am very pleased with the progress of that committee to date and I will continue to support them.

HOSPITAL STAFF DISCRIMINATION

Ms. Copps: In other words, the minister is not prepared to say that there has been action by some hospital boards and some hospital administrations which has left some employees in a position to have been fired, while other employees who have done the same things have been left in their jobs?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the member may not have had an opportunity to read or understand the grievance arbitration legislation of this province. If she would take a moment to review it, she will find that there is a procedure in this province not only for grievance arbitration, but also for an optional statutory procedure for rapid resolution of grievances. So there is no question but that anybody who feels there has been a grievance to his person with regard to actions taken by the hospital has a remedy, a remedy, I might say, that is in the forefront in North America.

Mr. Speaker: A new question, Mr. McClellan.

Mr. McClellan: I have a new question for the Minister of Labour.

Mr. Van Horne: Excuse me, Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I believe it is our turn for a question.

Mr. Speaker: This is a new question.

Mr. Van Horne: If it is a new question, it should be our turn, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Ms. Copps asked a new question.

An hon. member: It was a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: No, it was not a supplementary. It was a new question Ms. Copps asked.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I stated supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: I recognized a new question very clearly, Ms. Copps.

Ms. Copps: No, you did not.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, while we are sorting this out I wonder if, with the consent of the House, we could revert to statements so that the Premier could make a statement.

Agreed to.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I just want to make it clear we will be next in the rotation.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Actually, Mr. Speaker, I think it is our turn on this side of the House. Anyway I will not interfere with that determination.

Mr. Smith: Your silent back-benchers do not ask any questions.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The Leader of the Opposition should wish he had such back-benchers. I was going to ask why a couple on his back bench are not on the front bench. I am surprised. I am a little intrigued by that. I have to tell the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) that I know he is overwhelmed by the front bench, the middle bench and the back bench. I can understand that.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, in the throne speech last week His Honour indicated that this government would be making changes in its organization to reflect changing circumstances. Today I wish to detail one of these changes for the members. Legislation will be introduced very shortly to create a Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

That ministry will consist of the municipal affairs area and the municipal law branch at present in the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs, the community development wing and the Ontario Housing Corporation of the Ministry of Housing, the community planning wing and the land development wing of the Ministry of Housing, the normal central services derived mostly from the Ministry of Housing.

We recognize a close relationship exists between the assessment function within the Ministry of Revenue and many of the financial policy and administration activities of the new ministry. Therefore, the benefit of a closer integration of the grants and apportionment policies of the new ministry with assessment is under review.

The remainder of the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs will continue to be concerned with relations with other provinces, the federal government and with foreign governments, where appropriate, in order to negotiate and administer treaties. The Ministry of Revenue will take over responsibility for the Ontario Mortgage Corporation at present in the Ministry of Housing. These changes will take place as soon as they can reasonably be carried out.

It will be clear to all members of this House that this new organization represents an improvement in our administration. The creation of the new Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing reflects and strengthens our commitment to the municipal level of government.

With the area of rapid urban expansion, huge capital expenditures on municipal infrastructure and increasingly complex tri-level arrangements largely behind us, we believe we can now look forward to a stable period in which effective administration and sound development will be the requirements of the day.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Listen, did the honourable member read the latest Conference Board in Canada figures for Ontario which he relied upon? The honourable member should have a look at them. He relied on them for 44 days. They led him up the garden path or down the garden path. They nearly led him into political oblivion.

By putting together at this time under a single minister the important programs of municipal affairs, community planning and community development, we increase our capacity to work with municipalities to achieve our mutual objectives.

I should also stress that the new ministry will continue to be responsible for the government's commitment to the provision and management of socially assisted housing through the Ontario Housing Corporation with its network of 61 local housing authorities and through its support for community-based, nonprofit and co-operative housing programs.

One great advantage of this arrangement is that the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs will now be able to focus its attention on Ontario's relations with other governments, particularly within Canada. It is clear that the scope and intensity of intergovernmental issues on the immediate horizon will make this area a matter of the highest priority for the government.

The distinguished member for Scarborough North (Mr. Wells), a great statesman, elected by a large majority, will continue as—

An hon. member: Are you endorsing him for the leadership?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would endorse 69 people for the ultimate leadership of our party on this side of the House. That endorsement may take several years to come but, unlike those people who are facing a leadership review in the next few months, that is not contemplated on this side of the House.

Mr. Peterson: The Premier may not think so but everybody else thinks so.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Would the opposition members please give the Premier a chance to make a statement.

Mr. Peterson: How am I doing?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We know what the honourable member's plans are. It is obvious even to us on this side of the House. His father-in-law told me what his plans were. How is the honourable member doing? I don't know. Perhaps the hair should be altered a bit. I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, but I was interrupted.

The member for Scarborough North is also the minister responsible for the province's French-language services. Both the Council on Franco-Ontarian Affairs and the government co-ordinator of French-language services will report to the government through the minister. This appointment will emphasize the government's commitment to making steady progress in providing a full range of services in French to those areas of the province where the numbers warrant.

I was trying to think of a line that would introduce the member for Ottawa South (Mr. Bennett) to the member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) in a way that he could enthusiastically thump his desk. In case he did not know it, I would say to him that the distinguished member for Ottawa South, who in turn won with an overwhelming majority, will be the new Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. I know that members opposite will like that appointment and will receive it with enthusiasm.

11 a.m.

Mr. Smith: The Premier read everything else word for word and overlooked the member for Ottawa South.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I did not at all. I was waiting for the appropriate opportunity. The Leader of the Opposition made a mistake. He tried to overlook him for 44 days, and look what it did to him in that part of the world.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: The opposition will let the Premier continue.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have to tell the leader of the New Democratic Party that if he had a few members like the member for Ottawa South he would not be retiring as leader. He would not be forced to abdicate his throne. We are going to miss him. I say that sincerely, objectively and with some regret.

Mr. T. P. Reid: So the Premier should. He is the best thing that ever happened to him.

Hon. Mr. Davis: There have been two good things happen to us on the other side of the House. I would say to "landslide Reid," the member for Rainy River, if it had not been for his wife, he would not be back here.

Mr. T. P. Reid: I accept that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That is not an observation from me. That is my wife's assessment. My wife thinks his wife is okay and that that is the only reason he got re-elected. That is a very objective analysis.

Mr. T. P. Reid: I do not recall the Premier's wife voting for me.

Hon. Mr. Davis: My wife would have voted for the member's wife. She would never have voted for him.

Mr. Speaker: Is this part of the Premier's statement?

Hon. Mr. Davis: To get back to the statement, Mr. Speaker, these are important changes which are indicative of my government's determination to adapt to changing circumstances and to meet the challenging needs of the people of this province.

Mr. Smith: It was a Freudian slip that the Premier missed reading the minister's name when he was reading the announcement. That is very interesting.

Mr. Speaker: The appropriate time will be added to the question period. A new question from Mr. McClellan please.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, you are aware that we cannot challenge your decision, but I can assure you in most sincere terms that the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps) was asking a supplementary question to one put by the leader of the NDP, having to do with labour problems in the hospitals. The question was a

good one and it was responded to. She clearly said it was supplementary, and you accepted it on that basis.

As we cannot challenge your decision in this, we simply bring to your attention that it is a serious misapprehension and ask for your consideration. It is obviously the turn of the member for London North (Mr. Van Horne).

Mr. Speaker: The members may be interested to know that I have been keeping track of question period, the amount of time each member takes and the amount of total time for each question. I had listed the member for Hamilton Centre, quite clearly, for a new question. She chose to ask the Minister of Labour (Mr. Elgie) a question which had been raised earlier.

Mr. Smith: It was clearly a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: There is no doubt. Mr. McClellan, please.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

ORAL QUESTIONS
(continued)

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

Mr. McClellan: I would like to ask the Minister of Labour if he has had the eighth report of the select committee on the Ombudsman brought to his attention by the Workmen's Compensation Board and, in particular, whether he has been briefed by officials of the compensation board with respect to complaint 30 of the Ombudsman's seventh report, referenced on page 50, in which the Ombudsman has ruled to the following effect: "That there is no requirement either in the Workmen's Compensation Act or in the board's policy directives which tie permanment disability awards under section 42 of the act solely to the clinical assessment of the injury."

In other words, the board has the legislative authority now to set awards on the basis of impairment of earning capacities rather than solely on the basis of the so-called "meat chart." Have officials of the compensation board consulted with the minister about this case?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: First, Mr. Speaker, I do not accept the use of the term "meat chart." The member is referring to a clinical disability rating, and I understand what he is talking about, but that was his choice of words, not mine.

Secondly, in the matter he refers to—it is section 42(1)—we have had some preliminary discussions about it and some other opinions are being sought. When those opinions are available, I will be pleased to report to the House.

Mr. McClellan: With respect, may I ask the minister if he is aware that there are approximately 100 cases at the Ombudsman's office on which resolution is awaiting a decision with respect to case number 30? Can the minister explain to us why the Workmen's Compensation Board has refused to comply with the recommendation of the Ombudsman, who happens to be one of the most distinguished jurists in this country, despite the fact that it has been supported by the select committee?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I think the answer is fairly simple. The Workmen's Compensation Board clearly has doubt as to whether the Ombudsman's interpretation is an accurate one and is seeking to have that opinion reviewed.

HEALTH DISCIPLINES BOARD

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Provincial Secretary for Social Development in the absence of the Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell). It has to do with a matter pertaining to the health disciplines board and its inability to provide documentation to persons who appear before the board in reference to actions of a medical doctor.

Specifically, when a complaint is made to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario and later referred for a review by the health disciplines board, the complainant cannot get hold of the medical doctor's response to the complaint, either to judge its correctness or to prepare his or her response to it.

The question is, will the government bring forward legislation to guarantee a fair hearing by the health disciplines board, with full and open disclosure of the doctor's response to the College of Physicians and Surgeons?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Mr. Speaker, I understand that is being reviewed by the freedom of information review board.

Mr. Ruprecht: Supplementary: I would like to ask a question of the same minister. I have been trying to get information for a long time now on the discharge policies of our mental health system. In fact, I have contacted the director—

Interjections.

Mr. Ruprecht: It is a supplementary.

It took me four days to get through to this person and he tells me he does not want to answer any questions because apparently there

has been a staff directive in this hospital from the administrator that no one is to tell anyone on the outside anything that goes on inside this particular hospital.

I am asking the question now of the minister, does she know anything about this staff directive that no one is to speak at that hospital; and, secondly, will she speak to the administrator and provide the information I seek?

Mr. Speaker: That is not a supplementary and I cannot accept it as a new question.

STAFF REDUCTIONS

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Premier.

Can the Premier explain the position taken in the letter reported by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation from him to his cabinet colleague regarding cuts contemplated for the budget? Can he explain why he is taking that position when in April 1978 the Chairman of Management Board stated: "Prior to the latest move, the government had severely constrained the size of its work force, therefore it was obvious that additional staff reductions would be very difficult to achieve. There is no more slack in the system to cut"?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted the honourable member watches the CBC. I watch it with some interest myself.

Without divulging the contents of the budget, may I explain very briefly the process of government. The ministries make certain representations related to their desired needs as they see them for the next budgetary year. We go through a process, because the requests or expectations traditionally exceed what ultimately happens, because that is part of the responsibility of government. It is not that unique for me to suggest to my cabinet colleagues that there be some targeted objective in terms of total expenditures.

I should point out to the honourable member that I believe he referred to 1978 in the question. It is now 1981.

This government is always reassessing its administrative practices. We have a responsibility to keep our level of expenditure as reasonable as possible. In fact, I would expect that when the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) comes out with his budget some members will be saying, on the one hand, we should be spending more, while some members in some parties will be saying we should spend less. The reality will be that the Treasurer will come up with a budget that is equitable, fair, reasonable, acceptable—all of those adjectives that I am sure none of the members opposite will use.

11:10 a.m.

Mr. Wildman: Is the Premier not concerned about the leaking of this letter and about who leaked it, when one considers the importance of secrecy traditionally in the preparation of a budget in our system of government?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am always concerned about leaks, although during the campaign my issue was primarily cabbages; but I am concerned about leaks.

Mr. Peterson: You are a real funny guy.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Well, it is Friday morning. I know, it took the honourable member a while to understand it, it's early. At least I have retained my sense of humour.

I have some advice for the member. If he is really serious about his leadership ambitions he should develop a sense of humour. It might stand him in good stead. I tell him, I am trying to be as helpful as I can to him. Why has he moved so far down the end of the row?

I am always concerned about leaks of government documents. I have noticed that has never been shared by members of your caucus. In fact, to the contrary, one not only enjoys leaks, one sometimes tries to create leaks. I understand that.

I should point out though that while the level of expenditure, of course, is relevant, the traditional part of the Treasurer's budget that is kept confidential until eight of the clock, when he rises here to inform all of us as to his plans, really relates to the revenue side, not necessarily the expenditure side.

On the expenditure side, in fact, we have made public the enlightened policies for the next fiscal year. We have said to the municipalities, well over 10 per cent. We have said to the universities, well over 11 per cent. We have said to the hospitals, well over 11 per cent. We have already indicated our enlightened generosity with respect to many of the major expenditure programs for the next fiscal year.

RIDGE LANDFILL SITE

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development. Could he answer us directly or, failing that, give us an answer from the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Norton), regarding the ministry's report of the Ridge landfill site?

I might explain that the original application

allowed for 8,000 gallons per day, five days a week, making a total of approximately two million gallons. Would the minister explain why a ministry official at the standing resources development committee hearing last January revealed that 3.4 million gallons were deposited in this site from August 1, 1979, to July 31, 1980? In other words, the site accepted 67 per cent more than was allowed.

I would just like to read a short paragraph from the report: "The statements contained in the supporting information are not legally binding on the applicant, and where no environmental problems arise from the deviation from the statement the ministry has no reason to enforce strict adherence with the statements. It should be recognized that the supporting information form is a static document while the operation of a large landfill site is an evolving process, and that as a result the two may not always be in agreement."

Would the minister find out what percentage of overrun is considered acceptable? Is it five per cent, is it 10 per cent, 67 per cent or 100 per cent? If it is in that higher range, would the minister find out why they bother with an application and approval process at all?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I would be pleased to take that up with the Minister of Environment and have an answer for the member at the first of the week.

COKE OVEN EMISSIONS

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Labour. Can he give the House some clear indication of when we are going to see coke oven emission standards in Ontario—standards that have been promised, as he knows, all the way back to 1979, and from no less an authority than the Premier of this province?

Can he also tell us if they will be at least as good as those that are in force in the United States?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, there are really three questions there. The reponse to the first part of it is yes, a coke oven emission standard will be gazetted within the next week or two.

Second, on his comment with regard to duration, I would remind him that the Occupational Health and Safety Act was proclaimed in October 1979.

Mr. McClellan: Do not apologize.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I am not apologizing. One has to learn to understand the difference between facts, the course of events and the realities of life when one has to deal with problems.

Within four months of the proclamation of that act, the steel companies and the unions were brought together to discuss it and briefs were presented by all of those parties. Those briefs were reviewed and we now are proposing a coke oven regulation which will be gazetted within the next week or two.

Mr. Wildman: Can the minister assure us that when the draft is prepared and published it will be the same as, or equal to, the American standards?

Mr. McClellan: Maybe even better.

Mr. Wildman: Or better than the American standards. That is, can he assure us that it will be 0.15 milligrams per cubic metre, rather than 0.2 as has been rumoured?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, the member will not have to sit anxiously in his seat much longer since it will be gazetted either tomorrow or a week tomorrow. So that information will be immediately available to him.

GASOLINE PURCHASES BY U.S. MOTORISTS

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Premier. Is the Premier aware of the serious traffic problems and the inconvenience encountered by local residents caused by the substantial increase in American motorists purchasing low-cost gasoline in Fort Erie?

Will the Premier initiate a full public inquiry into the unfair practices of the gasoline industry by the dumping of surplus gasoline at much lower cost at points of entry into Canada by using American currency rates up to 22 per cent on the dollar? The federal government petroleum inquiry called them "restraint practices as a means of reducing competition and enhancing prices, to the detriment of the Canadian consumer."

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I will not comment on the latter part of the question, but I would be interested in having the views of the member for Erie as to whether there should be—and I think it would have to be in this case—a federal policy that would restrict American motorists from coming into that community to buy what is obviously cheaper gasoline.

The Minister of Energy (Mr. Welch) has expressed some concern about this issue, but at

the same time, we are not in a position to restrict entry or purchase of this product by visitors, because it is a matter of federal jurisdiction.

I sometimes watch both our own channels and on the odd occasion I get stuck on a Buffalo channel and I know something of the controversy. But I think I recall some people from Fort Erie saying that while they do not like the inconvenience they do not object to the business.

Perhaps the member for Erie might communicate to me, not here in the House, whether or not this is an economic plus or minus and how significant a problem it is for his constituents. But I should indicate to him that it really is a matter of federal jurisdiction as to how one would restrict this practice, if it is to be restricted. We do not have any right to say to American visitors, or others, that they cannot cross the Peace Bridge. Once they cross the Peace Bridge, it is pretty hard to say, "You cannot go to a gas station." It does become very awkward.

Mr. Haggerty: In view of the efforts of the Ministry of Energy in advertising to tell drivers to conserve gasoline, why should Americans receive the full benefit of the gasoline surplus? If dealers are able to sell gasoline at much cheaper prices, then why is it not reflected at the pump price to the Ontario consumers, who also should benefit by the surplus gas?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am just asking the honourable member who represents that constituency whether he would communicate to me quietly whether he feels this practice of allowing American visitors to come over—a lot of them, I am sure—just to purchase gasoline, should be stopped. I am not sure how it would be done.

Does one ask in a questionnaire at the Peace Bridge: "Are you coming to buy gas, or you coming to travel up into Haliburton or Honey Harbour to spend a weekend? What is your ultimate objective?" I think it is a fairly fundamental question that has to be asked. I would be delighted to have his views if he would like to express them.

Mr. Haggerty: When can we meet?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to meet with the member for Erie on any given day, but I have to have a little notice.

11:20 a.m.

MUNICIPAL MEETINGS

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. Is the minister aware that the Ontario Press Council recently received a complaint that committee meetings of the Elgin County Council were not open to the public and that almost all of the public business of the county was done in committee? Is the minister aware that the press council decision recommended that legislation should be brought in to make it mandatory that municipal bodies open all meetings, including committee meetings, to the public with the possible exception of meetings dealing with personnel and property negotiations?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am aware of that case. I am aware of the decision of the press council and that is one of the matters, among many, we are looking at for legislative change. I am sure that the new minister of that ministry will be looking at that.

I want to state very unequivocally that my position has always been, for as long as I can remember in government, that any elected body should carry on practically all of its business in public. I have never been a supporter of any council or school board that carries on its business in private except for matters of personnel, property management and a certain very small selected list which could and should be carried on in private.

Mr. Cassidy: The minister never put it into law.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I can't hear what my friend is saying but I think that if we look around, most of the municipal councils and school boards in this province honour that kind of commitment.

Ms. Bryden: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: In view of the fact that we do not yet have a freedom of information act and do not appear to be going to get one for at least a year, would the minister not use his good offices with the cabinet to convince them of his point of view by recommending that we do have mandatory legislation in this field governing municipal bodies of all kinds?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I indicated a few minutes ago that this is one of the areas that, because of the decision and because the matter has been raised, will be looked at along with all the other amendments which are considered each year in the Municipal Act.

RURAL HYDRO COSTS

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier with regard to hydro in northern Ontario. Would the Premier recall that until December 7, 1971, the provincial government had a program in regard to rural

grant and aid programs for Ontario Hydro to extend hydro in northern Ontario? Because many tourist operators, sawmill operators and small businesses are finding it difficult to pay the capital costs of the extension of Hydro to their places of business, will the Premier consider reinstating this program to provide such capital assistance?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member would like to communicate this both to me and the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier)—I assume he is referring to, what? New installations or creation of new tourist or industrial or mining developments?

My recollection is, with respect to some at least, there have been agreements. Perhaps these have been larger developments between Ontario Hydro and say a new mine or something of that nature whereby a portion of the cost for the transmission facility is, in fact, negotiated. There is not perhaps a general policy, as we had with respect to basically rural electrification.

If the honourable member would give me some examples of this need, I would be quite prepared to take them up with the Minister of Energy and the Minister of Northern Affairs.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Premier's answer and I will provide that list.

One of the things I would ask by supplementary is that the Premier consider going back to either the old program or some kind of subsidy for these capital expenses, but they are primarily small businesses.

Mr. Foulds: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: In reviewing this policy, could the Premier also ask Hydro to review its policy with regard to extending electrification to residential premises in northern Ontario where they have to pay exorbitant amounts for an individual in terms of mileage to get the line? For example, there are places within a 20-mile radius of Thunder Bay that are not electrified. The Premier nods agreement.

Mr. Speaker: New question, Mr. Eakins.

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, my question is—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, I did make a mistake, Mr. Eakins. That was Mr. Reid's question.

Mr. Sweeney: Are you sure?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, I am. I recognize Mr. Grande.

DON BOSCO HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Grande: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Education and is in regard to the Don Bosco portable high school.

In view of the fact the board of education for the borough of Etobicoke changed its mind and reversed the decision to sell Keiller Mackay High School to the Metropolitan Separate School Board; and in view of the fact that during the election campaign she made a commitment to the Don Bosco students and families that they will have a permanent location, is the minister going to keep that promise, or will this be another example of broken Tory commitments?

Further, how long is the minister going to play around with this issue? It has been going on for three years now.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, of course the promise will be kept. Although the honourable member may have some formal communication from the Etobicoke board of education regarding this matter, I have not as yet received any. I have not received an answer to my letter of March 4, which I anticipate will be forthcoming rapidly with a little urging. Neither have I as yet received an answer from the Metropolitan Separate School Board in response to my letter of that date. I anticipate I will have that as well.

We shall continue to use our good offices to ensure the promise is kept.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 32, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act, 1974.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, The purpose of this bill is to establish a standard relating to the installation and operation of electronic surveillance systems in places of employment. The bill permits the installation of these systems only where it is reasonably necessary for the protection of the health or safety of employees. The onus of establishing that the installation and operation of a surveillance system is reasonably necessary for this purpose is placed upon the employer.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 33, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act, 1974.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to require an employer to provide a leave of absence to any employee who has been elected to provincial or municipal office so the employee may be able to carry out the duties of that elected office.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 34, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act, 1974.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to extend the application of part XII, the layoff provisions of the Employment Standards Act, to employees who are employed for a definite term or task, and to persons who are laid off or terminated during or as a result of a strike or lockout at the place of employment.

11:30 a.m.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 35, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act, 1974.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to protect the employment of an employee who attempts to enforce the provisions of this or any other act, or who testifies or otherwise participates in a proceeding or hearing under this or any other act, or before a court of law.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 36, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act, 1974.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to extend the application of the whole act to the crown. Currently parts IX, X, XI and XII of the act applied to the crown.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 37, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act, 1974.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I consider this an important bill, whose purpose is to reduce the standard work week from 48 to 40 hours and to require employers to pay overtime rates for work done in excess of 40 hours per week, rather than 44 hours as is now in force.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 38, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act, 1974.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to ensure that no employee engaged in the preparation or service of food in a tavern, restaurant, hotel, motel or tourist resort can be required as a term or condition of employment to work while nude or partially nude.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 39, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act, 1974.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to extend the time for giving notice where the employment of an employee is about to be terminated. Where 50 or more employees are to be affected by a termination, a notice period of 26 weeks is required. This notice period also applies in cases of extended layoffs.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 40, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act, 1974.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the proposed new section 29 increases the vacation period to which an employee is entitled under the act. Currently, the act provides for a two week vacation period for each employee and does not vary the amount with employment service. This bill would require two weeks in each year upon the completion of 12 months of employment, three weeks in each year upon the completion of 60 months of employment, and four weeks in each year upon the completion of 120 months of employment.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 41, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act, 1974.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill, and it also is an important one, is to prohibit employers from interfering with the payment of tips and gratuities to waiters and waitresses in the province of Ontario.

CROWN EMPLOYEES COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 42, An Act to amend the Crown Employees Collective Bargaining Act, 1972.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to repeal certain provisions of the Crown Employees Collective Bargaining Act, 1972, that restrict the composition of collective agreements negotiated under the act.

PUBLIC SERVANTS POLITICAL RIGHTS ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 43, An Act to provide Political Rights for Public Servants.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the bill is designed to give public servants the same political rights that other citizens enjoy in Ontario. It covers civil servants, crown employees, employees of community colleges and people working for agencies such as Ontario Hydro, the Workmen's Compensation Board and the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission, but excludes deputy ministers, offices of similar status in crown agencies and other senior policy-making officials.

11:40 a.m.

DISABLED PERSONS EMPLOYMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 44, An Act to provide for the Employment of Disabled Persons.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I know this is a controversial bill but it stems from my frustration with efforts to provide employment for the handicapped. The purpose of the bill is to provide employment opportunities for disabled persons. The bill requires that employers hire disabled persons to constitute at least three per cent of the employer's work force. The bill permits the minister to vary this percentage requirement in cases where the minister considers another quota to be more suitable.

In addition, the minister may exempt an employer or class of employers from the operation of the statute. The bill establishes a register of employable disabled persons, to be maintained by the ministry for the purpose of facilitating efforts by employers to meet the quota established under the bill.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS DECLARATION ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 45, An Act to declare the Application of Certain Parts of the Employment Standards Act, 1974.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to extend the application of parts IV, V, VI, VII and VIII of the Employment Standards Act, 1974, to domestic servants. These parts cover work week, hours, minimum wage, overtime pay, public holidays, vacation with pay and should end the disgraceful situation we have in Ontario where these employees are not covered.

PROCEDURES OF HOUSE

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if you might take under advisement the possibility of having some arrangement whereby an honourable member who chooses to introduce 20 or 22 separate amendments to one act might very well do so without all the running back and forth and the time consumption. It might even be possible for him, if he decides to introduce them as separate amendments rather than as a number of amendments to one act, as is normally the case, to have an opportunity to describe those so that we might not spend quite so much time in the mechanics of it.

I bring to your attention, sir, that since we now have at least a sort of limit on the debate on the reply to the speech from the throne, and that yesterday one of the Conservative members spoke for an hour and a half and two of the NDP members spoke for well over an hour, the utilization of about 25 minutes for the introduction of this long and important series of bills unnecessarily erodes the time that would otherwise be at our disposal.

Mr. Speaker: I will be pleased to take your point of order under consideration.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, while you are considering that point of order and the ramifications of it, which I think could be quite serious, you might consider whether we would go to the American Congressional Record system of simply filing speeches and not delivering them in the House during the throne speech debate and the budget debate.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE
(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, I would like very much, as my first address in the House, to be able to speak extemporaneously, but having noticed that most members seem to have a great pile of notes, I am going to take the opportunity for today's maiden speech to do so.

It is an honour for me to rise in support of the government's proposal for the coming session. The program of legislation announced in the speech from the throne will carry this province forward, will carry us ahead in a period of difficulty and of uncertainty, but in a confident and successful way.

It is with some apprehension that I stand and deliver what has become known as the member's maiden speech in the Legislature. It is with apprehension that I am following in the footsteps of some very esteemed people who have represented the great riding of Carleton over many years. Some names that come to mind are Holly Acres, Erskine Johnston, and of course my predecessor, Sidney Handleman.

First, however, Mr. Speaker, may I join with the many others who have congratulated you on your election to that office. At the same time, may I add my own words of commendation to the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), who served this House with dignity and fairness while serving as Speaker—and as well to the member for Perth (Mr. Edighoffer) and to Mr. John MacBeth, who also served in the chair.

I would also like to take this opportunity, as other members have done, to thank the constituents of the riding of Carleton for the confidence they have shown in me, not only in one election but in two elections within a five-month period.

Past members for Carleton have spoken about the rivers, streams, hills and valleys of their constituency. Those rivers, streams, hills and valleys still exist in Carleton, but the Carleton of today not only has the environmental rewards of good planning for all of the citizens of Ottawa-Carleton to enjoy, but it also comprises two active, vibrant cities, two of the newest in Ontario, the cities of Nepean and Kanata.

Furthermore, Carleton is beginning to shed its image of providing bedroom communities for the city of Ottawa and all of the federal civil servants located there, in favour of becoming the microelectronics centre of Ontario, and perhaps of Canada.

Today, because of the confidence of men of vision, Carleton is the home of some of the best known firms in the area of high technology. It is because of this change to the riding that I rise to speak in support of the throne speech, and in particular of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program. I should perhaps add that those high-tech firms and their commitment to Ontario and Carleton has also been recognized by the government of Ontario and the various development corporations that have assisted these businesses to succeed. Government's role has been most constructive and helpful. For that help, a great deal of credit must go to the member for St. Andrews-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman).

Much of the microelectronics industry in Ontario is located in Ottawa-Carleton, where 80 companies have a total sales volume of $500 million a year. Many are growing rapidly. In addition, the federal government and universities perform a considerable amount of research work, the Telidon system having been developed by the federal government.

The areas which are currently under development, such as fibre optics and digital transmission, and the practical manifestations of these developments, such as electronic mail, interactive television and electronic funds transfer, will have profound economic, social and cultural impact.

The domestic market for electrical products in Canada is about $9 billion. The export market, served by our domestic manufacturers, is over $1 billion. Northern Telecom has extensive manufacturing in my riding.

In Kanata, Northern has an optical fibre systems plant, a new Ottawa plant opened in 1979 manufacturing printed circuit boards containing thousands of components. More than 250 components are contained in each large-scale integrated circuit, etched on paper-thin

chips, one quarter square inch in area. Very large scale integrated circuits containing more than 2,500 components and up to 40,000 are being developed. Computer-based design systems are being used—COPES to design hardware and ISES to design software.

11:50 a.m.

Mitel Corporation Limited employs 800 and has annual sales estimated at $40 million. Its most important product converts tone inputs from touchtone phones to post signals which can be used by rotary dial telephones at low cost. It makes other telecommunications equipment, including a more efficient telephone switchboard or PBX. It is fully integrated as well and makes electronic chips, which puts it in an advantageous position. Targeted growth is to reach $1 billion in sales by 1990.

Gandalf Data Communications Limited had sales in 1980 of well over $20 million. The company's original product was a modem used for linking remote CRT terminals to a computer. Gandalf has 475 employees.

Norpak Limited, with sales for 1980 at $8 million, produces digital display devices on cathode ray tube terminals to allow data to be shown in pictorial form on video screens. This has many applications, such as monitoring nuclear plants and linking computers to television sets. Norpak, by the way, has the manufacturing rights for the Telidon home terminal which links central computers to home television.

Altogether there are about 80 high technology companies in the Ottawa-Carleton area, employing 15,000 people with annual sales of around $500 million.

Another industry making use of semiconductor chip technology is the photovoltaic or solar cell industry. In Canada, it had sales of about $500,000 in 1979. Most of the companies which distribute the product are located in Ontario and are subsidiaries of foreign corporations. The main market for photovoltaics in this country is the federal government's Department of Supply and Services.

Most microelectronic research and development work is centred around Ottawa. Bell-Northern Research Limited is the largest private research and development facility in Canada. The National Research Council, where early research work was undertaken during the war, is also centred in Ottawa. Carleton University conducts a large amount of microelectronics research, and the Communications Research Centre, a branch of the federal Department of Communications, developed the Telidon system which is able to transmit pictures using digital signals.

The system, which is able to link central computers to television sets, is being tested in the United States, in the Washington area, by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. They are trying this out in 60 selected homes and institutions.

An interesting point is that this Telidon system was chosen over a British and French system because Telidon transmits a much clearer picture, can draw curves, overlay text and colour and produces images faster. The Telidon computer is more advanced, and the system can be inexpensively adapted to changes in technology.

With respect, Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a pitch that the microelectronics centre, which forms the key initiative in our Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program, would most effectively, and should ideally, be located in the Carleton area, where these 80 firms are showing the way in the microelectronics industry.

The main thrust of research and development in the telecommunications field is the replacement of conventional transmission of information by digital transmission for sound and/or picture. In conventional transmission of telephone signals, noise and distortion increase as the signal travels longer distances. By translating the signal into a digital code, transmitting it and then decoding it, the noise and distortion can be eliminated, and several different media can use the common carrier.

Fibre optics research replaces transmission through copper wires for transmission by laser through hair-thin strands of glass fibres. They have been tested for use in interoffice trunk lines in downtown Montreal and for residential phone use in the Yorkville area of Toronto. Development work is under way for their use in security alarm systems, coin telephones, home computer communications, electronic mail, electronic funds transfers and interactive video television.

One pair of these fibres can carry 4,000 telephone conversations, several TV signals or 100 million computer bits of information a second, replacing a three-inch copper cable. Test results show it could be very reliable. Unfortunately, the high cost of the almost pure silicon required remains a bit of a drawback.

The interaction of computers and telecom-

munications depends to a large extent upon digital transmission. The Telidon system developed by the Department of Communications links digital transmission of television signals to a computer. Through their television sets, viewers have access to a computer for information and can interact with the computer. With Canadians having one of the highest levels of telephone saturation and the highest level of cable television saturation in the world, the capital cost requirements of widespread implementation of this are not as high as one might think.

Interactive television would allow viewers to select goods and shop from home, to work at home and to attend school at home. Mail service could be speeded up by transmitting messages almost instantaneously by electromagnetic waves to the area where the letter is to be sent.

Mr. McClellan: You could give this speech from your home.

Mr. Mitchell: You are right on. The funny thing is there are some jokes in politics but some of the bad ones get elected. Adlai Stevenson once said about his opposition, "If you stop telling lies about us, we won't tell the truth about you."

Here it would be printed according to the signals received and delivered. The physical delivery of the letter would no longer be necessary.

The Globe and Mail has tested the simultaneous printing of the newspaper by satellite transmission and is to begin permanent simultaneous printing of the Globe in Toronto and Calgary some time next year. This would eliminate the need to actually transport the newspapers and greatly reduce the time between the printing of the newspaper and its availability to readers in other parts of the country and the world.

A development which would very significantly affect everyone's life is the introduction of electronic funds transfer. The hardware is already available. Probably the major obstacle to its introduction is lack of consumer acceptance. Using a special plastic card and one's own personalized number, all transactions could be paid for by the instantaneous debiting and crediting of the bank accounts of the buyer and seller. Ultimately, the flow of money in all its forms and directions could be fully automated.

To use computers, software packages or programs must be developed and tested. This is quite labour intensive and requires highly trained employees. Research work is under way at present to build computers which will write programs. This will greatly increase the power and potential of artificial intelligence.

Some experts have explained we are witnessing the growth of a kind of external nervous system with sensors, memory and flows of information and response mechanisms. Unlike other technological advances, today's computer communications devices in tandem with the widespread application of microprocessors do not simply add capital equipment to existing processes, they are profoundly changing the nature of the production process itself.

Some have noted we are moving into a post industrial society. Others have called it an electronic society and the term "global village" was fashionable for a while. Most recently, the extent of the transformation was thought to be reflected in the term "information society." With the blending of communications and computing, there is no longer any definite technical or service distinction between a terminal used for communications and one used as an input and output device for a computer system.

The communications and data processing markets are merging, served by telephone, telegraph, data processing and other companies. In the area of most obvious overlap, communications-based information systems, 15 to 20 per cent growth is likely to occur each year for at least the next decade. The new computer communications applications open a new world of interaction. They offer public access to information and programming of almost unlimited quantity and quality. In addition, a degree of control will shift to the viewing public because access is accompanied by choice.

12 noon

No longer passive receivers of broadcast information or programs, an interactive public will exercise an ongoing selection choice. The implications for conventional commercial networks, prime time television and the world of advertising are enormous. Much of the technological advance revolves around the emergence of the digital mode as the best way of sending all communications—voice, visual and data—through the system. It is cheaper, faster and less subject to distortion than analogue.

The movement to electronic switching systems by the telephone companies aids the shift, as such systems are, in fact, durable computers complete with memory and other features. Hardware costs keep dropping. Microprocessors will soon be cheaper, some say, than a

tankful of gasoline. Transmission costs are dropping as well. Fibre optics are proven, and field tests are under way. Satellite technology has evolved low power parabolic dish receivers designed to sell for under $200 and some are already being produced in Japan.

The cost of storing and transmitting data is falling dramatically, from one cent per character in 1970 to one hundreth of a cent in 1975. A 10 by 15 centimetre, wafer-thin plastic holofiche can hold more data than the Toronto telephone book.

Manufacturing is increasingly being run by process control computers and production robots. Paper work is giving way to word and data processing. Management is able to access and manipulate increasingly vast amounts of data. Computer facilities will tie together the complex facilities of government and industry.

Telecommunications is beginning to act as a substitute for transportation. Where a video conference is used, instead of transporting two people from, say, Montreal to Toronto, there is an energy saving of 2,300 kilowatts, enough to serve an electrically heated house for a period of several weeks. In fact, many of the problems associated with economic growth can be reduced or removed entirely.

The new information channels which can access the world's data banks, film libraries, computer-assisted educational programs and digitized encyclopedias with built-in film clips, can be made available universally. Making these large quantities of data available to Canadians will radically change the mental resources of our society. Just as the introduction of electricity had a profound impact on mankind, so the introduction of the information communications technology is leading to developments that strain our powers of projection.

A list of the uses of the new technology and the ways in which it will transform our society would reach into almost all aspects of life, almost all industries and professions. The wired city, so long predicted, is arriving. We in Ontario are fortunate indeed to have a government that is determined, within the context of the BILD program, to take maximum advantage of the opportunities it presents. Today's children play with computer toys and teaching aids and pinball machines. For them, the microelectronics era is all they know. Technology offers us all a world of promise and hope.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I too am one of those members who appreciate this opportunity to say a few words in connection with the throne speech, but before so doing, let me congratulate you, sir, as Deputy Speaker, the member for Peterborough (Mr. Turner) and the member for York Centre (Mr. Cousens) for the high honour and the very onerous responsibilities that have been bestowed upon you and them in this Legislature. I know you all exercise your responsibilities with a high degree of independence and impartiality.

I would say that I was a little disappointed, when I called for an emergency debate a week ago on the plight of farmers due to high interest rates, that the Speaker did not see fit to allow that debate to go through. I had to question, somewhat, his independence on this matter, knowing of course that he is also a member of the Conservative Party.

I really think that you have to forget about the fact that you are a member of the Conservative Party when you are serving in that position and allow some of these things that mean so much to the people out in the industries and businesses, such as the farmers, to go forth in this Legislature.

Mr. Speaker, in Canada today, we face three great crises and there is every sign that these crises will persist well into the 1980s. The first crisis is economic. I do not intend to bore you with a long discourse on economics. I simply want to say that the post Second World War boom, which began in the late 1940s, ended in 1973. We are now experiencing a period of economic instability and the general trend is that the western world and Canada are both in for rough times ahead.

The second crisis, linked to some extent to the first, is the continuing unresolved problem of national unity in Canada.

Canadians are a funny bunch. In our isolation from each other, we often resemble ostriches in our fondness for avoiding looking at unpleasantness squarely. If we do not hear of a problem on the National for a couple of weeks, we fondly imagine it to have been resolved and we resolutely refuse to think about it any more. So it is with national unity. Our heads are firmly implanted in the sand once again, or if we do think about national unity, we declare we are fed up and we do not care any more what happens.

I keep wondering what would have happened to us in other periods of trial in our history if we displayed such a low tolerance for discomfort. Can you imagine anyone in Canada in 1941, for example, announcing in a loud voice that he was thoroughly fed up with the Second World War

and did not care who won? My point simply is that the national unity crisis, as a fact of Canadian life, will be with us all well into the 1980s whether we get fed up or not.

The third crisis is less obvious than the first two, but it is linked to both. I would describe this as a philosophical, or spiritual, or moral crisis. Mr. Speaker, what I am going to say now is not going to make me the most popular person in this Legislature, particularly from the standpoint of the Conservatives across from me, but if I accomplish nothing more in this political life than to try to bring back some honour and integrity into political life, then I feel that I will have achieved something.

We have come through a campaign, which in the minds of many people, mysteriously returned the Tories to power with a majority for the next four years. As I listened to the promises and half truths that were being told during the campaign, as I observed the questionable performance of some of the candidates, and as I saw honour and integrity being thrown to the wind, I recalled a book I read entitled, The Evolution of Civilizations, written by Carroll Quigley.

Perhaps at this point in our time, Mr. Speaker, this book should be recommended reading for the members of this Legislature as it is clear that every civilization undergoes a process of historical change with politics playing a very major role in that process. We can see that a civilization comes into existence, passes through a long experience and eventually goes out of existence by a slow process which covers decades or even centuries.

12:10 p.m.

As a matter of interest, it is predicted the western civilization of which we are a part will go the way of other civilizations such as the Mesopotamian and Egyptian civilizations by the year 2500 AD. Imagine that. They are predicting the end of western civilization by the year 2500 AD. I think the House will understand the reason by the time I am finished this little discourse.

The author of the book elaborates on the seven changes through which civilization goes, from a mixture of cultures to a gestation period of relative inactivity, to an expansion period, to a period of conflict, to a universal empire, to a period of decay and finally to a period of invasion. I indicated western civilization will likely end about 2500 AD and that we are now approaching the stage of decay, which is the second to last stage in the evolution.

There are a number of factors involved in the transition but it is obvious that governments play a major role. Nowhere is this more evident than right here in Ontario. I would like to take a few minutes to make the analogy.

We saw a campaign in the 1977 provincial election when the Brampton charter was unfolded, containing many promises. To date, very few of those promises have been kept.

Then we had a by-election in eastern Ontario which really showed politics for what it is in this province. A brochure was distributed by the Tories which contained a gross distortion of the facts. The Conservatives chose to employ scare tactics by distributing such erroneous information when it appeared the riding was going to leave their fold.

We then came through a recent campaign where all the stops were pulled out. In my own riding, for example, the Tories took advantage of an unfortunate situation in my own family life and spread rumours throughout the riding which were outright lies. They tried every trick in the book but, thank God for human judgement, they came far short of accomplishing their goal.

I would not have believed people would stoop so low to accomplish their purpose, but politics, for reasons so obvious in this province, denotes dishonour and disrespect. Is it any wonder fewer and fewer of the voting public in Ontario are going to the polls? Only 54 per cent voted in the last election.

The members may think this a small point but I want to let them know what is going on. I saw one of the Conservative candidates in a riding adjacent to mine use religion to better his cause in politics.

I happen to frequent a large United Church in London and I hesitate to think it was just a coincidence that during the entire campaign the Conservative candidate was walking up and down the aisles of that church as the usher. It may well have been his turn to serve in that capacity, but that became very questionable when he came up to me on two different Sundays and said, "I am rather surprised you are not back in your own riding, attending your own church, trying to get votes."

I simply said to him that happened to be the church I was brought up in and where I was baptized. It was the church I joined. That is why I go back to it, as well as because I have an 80-year-old mother who depends on me to go back and get her out to church. I found it very questionable when he came up and asked why I was not back in my own riding in my own church

getting votes. I simply said to him I am not the type of person who is prepared to mix politics and religion.

I am also going to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the very same person endeavoured to use the Baptist church in order to advance his own campaign and this was well publicized in the London Free Press.

I know of a minister in a neighbouring riding who contacted his counterpart in Ottawa to see if he could dig up some scandal about one of the candidates who was running against him.

I know of a minister who considered his Liberal colleague in an adjacent riding to be his close friend, and although he looked to this member for advice on several occasions before the election, he threw him to the lions after the election writ was issued.

Some of my colleagues tell me I am naive if I believe that friendship is not left at the starting gate when the campaign race begins. But I look at it differently. I look at politicians as setting an example for the people of Ontario.

Do we want an Ontario where people are prepared to stab their own friends in the back in order to make their own personal gains, or do we want an Ontario where people honour and respect friends? If we want the latter, then we as politicians had better start to set an example.

This same minister I have been talking to went into a Liberal riding in eastern Ontario during the campaign and totally fabricated the truth about the contribution that the incumbent member had made to a specific project in that riding.

I saw a Premier (Mr. Davis) who spent millions of taxpayers' dollars in ridings in order to win or retain those ridings in his particular fold. A cartoon in the London Free Press showed the Premier standing in front of a mammoth fan with the dollar bills escaping from his hands and blowing here, there and all over the place.

I call this less than honourable, because the Premier and his colleagues showed very little sensitivity to the needs of the people prior to the election, and all of a sudden they became all heart during the election. Again I say, is it any wonder that only 54 per cent of the voting public is going to the polls?

I could go on and relate the less than honourable performances of the Tory candidates in this last campaign, but there is another important matter that I want to raise, so I will confine my remarks to the very mysterious outcome of the last provincial election in the riding of Middlesex. Surprisingly, the sitting member increased his majority quite substantially, despite the excellent qualifications and characteristics, as recognized by many people in that riding, of the Liberal candidate.

For the first time in years it appeared by all indicators that there would be an upset in the riding. Bob Coulthard, the Liberal candidate, was an outstanding businessman, an excellent family man; an active participant in community life and a much respected director of many farm organizations. Bob would have been a tremendous asset to the political process here in Ontario, and although he ran an excellent campaign he was not able to bring about the upset.

The comment I am still hearing from that riding is that the failure to change the political scene in the riding remains a mystery. It is going to be very interesting to see the amount of money that was spent in that riding. I do know that not all mysteries are solved overnight, but I am sure that as time goes on there will be some light shed on this mystery, other than that which has already been shed.

Is it any wonder that civilizations go through a stage of decay when those people running the affairs of the country fail to practise honour and integrity. The Conservatives in this Legislature have felt for some time that they have the divine right to rule, and now they have won back their majority by one means or another, they have already shown signs of discarding good government and replacing it with arrogance and authoritarianism.

12:20 p.m.

History does indeed repeat itself, and the petals on the trillium are starting to wither. Only by the grace of God and by recognition of the people of Ontario that governments can and do develop dry rot will the decay stage of this part of our civilization be prevented. I have said time and again that the arrogance and authoritarianism of the Conservatives will lead to their political demise, and the sooner this happens the better it will be for the people of Ontario.

I want to turn to that part of the economy to which I alluded in my opening remarks. There is something terribly wrong with the farming industry in Ontario when not only young farmers, but prominent and well established farmers are rapidly losing equity in their business and either have to sell their lands to save what little equity is left or go into bankruptcy. I am referring to hardworking and efficient farmers such as Brian Ireland, Teeswater; Don Morrison, Lucknow;

Glen Smith, Lynden; Arnold Anderson, Shelburne; Neil Williams, Winchester; Ron Faulkner, Harriston; Tony Bakker, Elora; Tom Archer, Elmvale; and I named some more yesterday.

I could go on with the names of more farmers who have been forced to sell their businesses or liquidate their assets, or who are rapidly losing equity in their businesses due mainly to high interest rates and low prices for commodities such as beef and pork. Last year, 124 farmers went bankrupt in Ontario. That was a 91 per cent increase over the previous year. For the first three months of this year, farm bankruptcies have increased 77 per cent over the same period last year.

Let me elaborate on the plight of the farmers whom I named in my opening remarks. Brian Ireland owns 250 acres at Teeswater. With an efficient operation in hogs and beef, his farm lost $60,000 last year, and he is at present paying the bank $1,000 a week just in interest charges.

Don Morrison decided to sell his 200-acre farm that has been in his family for five generations. He sold it to a foreign investor, and he intends to rent the farm back from him. Four or five other farmers in the Lucknow area sold their farms to foreign investors as well. Don Morrison paid $30,000 in interest last year, and selling his land and renting it back was the only way he could continue to farm and make a profit.

Glen Smith, a 24-year-old farmer in Lynden, could not sell his farm. His bank beat him to it. One month ago, the bank gave him one day's notice to pay $175,000. When he could not raise the money, the bank sent in trucks, took away his livestock and left him him with nothing. The farm was frozen, and he could not even put in a crop.

Arnold Anderson, who is a fourth generation farmer, was forced out of business because of high interest rates and low meat prices. Anderson, a beef and hog farmer, had to sell his stock in order to pay his bills. Three years ago, Anderson had a net worth of $385,000, but after years of low beef prices, and a sharp reduction in pork prices last year combined with rapidly rising interest rates, the net worth of $385,000 dropped, over a period of two or three years, to a deficit of $5,300.

Price Morris, who farms at Frankfurt, is selling most of his cattle because he finds the $24,000 interest on his operating loan of over $100,000 too much to carry, especially since he will need more credit soon to put in his 300-acre corn crop.

Neil Williams, at Winchester, has cut his herd in half, and he is custom feeding on the rest of his 350-acre farm because he just cannot stand over $50,000 in annual interest payments.

Ron Faulkner of Harriston didn't put cattle in at all this year because it is not feasible to feed and finish at 18 per cent interest rates.

Another farmer cutting back on his beef production is Tony Bakker at Elora. His operating loan used to go as high as $400,000 when he finished 800 cattle a year. Now he is down to 150 cattle, a more comfortable loan of $100,000 and he custom feeds 200 other head of cattle.

With beef and hog prices stagnating and even declining, many farmers in this province are in serious trouble. Reports of how poorly the farm economy is performing in the light of high interest rates are mounting.

Eight livestock farmers in the St. Isidore area of Prescott county staved off bankruptcy only by signing long-term integration contracts with feed companies.

Just to diverge for a minute, I heard today there are 2,500 acres of the best land you could possibly get in eastern Ontario, in Osie Villeneuve's riding, which have recently been sold to a foreign investor who has no intention of coming to this country to farm. He did not even see the land he was buying, and that came right from a realtor in the area who had been trying to buy that land for farmers who want to farm there.

This foreign investor paid a ridiculously high price for that land. There wasn't a farmer in that area who could match it.

There are 2,500 acres I just heard about today that have left Ontario and gone into the hands of a foreign investor.

All of this land is now vulnerable. These farmers who are now having to put up 100 acres of land in order to retain the other 100 or 200 are going to find they will never get that land back because that land is going to be sold to the foreign investors who have the money to pay big prices for it.

Banks pulled the plug on six farmers in Peterborough county—and this is why I was a little surprised when the Speaker would not allow that emergency debate to go through the other week. Six farmers in his own riding have gone bankrupt in relatively recent times. Four farmers in the Lindsay area of Victoria county have gone under. In Dufferin county, the Royal Bank sold the machinery of a hog farmer earlier this month after he ran out of credit and feed. Another pork producer and a beef farmer are

sliding out of business and even now may be gone from that area. Twenty-one southwestern Ontario livestock producers—16 near Ridgetown and five near Highgate—have been Bank of Montreal foreclosure victims.

As I indicated previously, bankruptcies reveal only part of the story. Many proud families have simply put their farms up for sale and tearfully left agriculture. There is no question that petering farm enterprises demand fast, solid help. Ontario farmers have been sending out distress calls for some time now but the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Henderson) and the Ontario government do not seem to care that more farmers than ever are going bankrupt.

This is a critical time for farmers and what happens in the economy during the next few months will make or break a fair number of them.

It is simply not good enough to have a Minister of Agriculture and Food in Ontario turn a deaf ear to the distress calls of the farmers and do nothing but blame the federal government for the high interest rates. If this very same minister visited Quebec or the western provinces and told the farmers there the Canadian government created the problems and therefore should correct them, he would be either laughed out of those provinces or he would be chased out at the end of a pitchfork. Other provinces have instituted an extensive and well used set of low-interest programs for their farmers, and the farmers in Ontario should expect nothing less.

12:30 p.m.

The Quebec government's objective, as stated in its 1980-81 budget, is to make Quebec self-sufficient in food. Their agricultural budget is 1.84 per cent of their total budgetary expenditure, compared to 1.2 per cent in Ontario. But we must remember that of that 1.2 per cent in Ontario there are the property tax rebates, which the farmers should not have been charged in the first place, and the crop insurance subsidies, which are paid back by the federal government.

Mr. Nixon: What about the drain money they loan and get back?

Mr. Riddell: That is right. The tile drainage money, too, is loans. The fact of the matter is, when we take those into consideration about half of one per cent of the total provincial budget in Ontario is spent on agriculture. What kind of a commitment is that?

Quebec offers long-term loans of $250,000 with interest rates of 2.5 per cent on the first $15,000 and eight per cent on anything over $15,000. Quebec government expenditures on agriculture amount to 15 per cent of the value of their agriculture production; in Ontario it is only five per cent.

For the first time ever, net farm incomes in Quebec in 1980 exceeded net farm incomes in Ontario. Quebec has an income stabilization plan that covers hogs and beef cattle. British Columbia has an all-inclusive income stabilization plan including hogs and beef. Saskatchewan has a beef income stabilization plan and Alberta has a hog stablization plan. Truly, a commitment to agriculture in Ontario is sadly lacking and badly needed. Just what has Ontario done to assist its farmers in this time of crippling livestock prices?

I am sure the Minister of Agriculture and Food will stand in his place and say he came to the aid of the farmers last year by offering an interest subsidy program. Twenty-five million dollars was set aside for this program, which expired on December 31, 1980. But listen to this: only 7,000 farmers applied for assistance which amounted to an expenditure of approximately $5 million by the province of Ontario.

Many farmers were eligible for such a piddling little amount that they did not even bother to apply. Some were eligible for only $200. The maximum amount of a loan which was covered under the program was $75,000 per farmer. The limit on the program was $1,600. How far is $1,600 going to go on the amount of interest that farmers have to pay today in Ontario? Three per cent interest subsidy over 12 per cent does not amount to much when one is paying 19 per cent in interest rates. Sixteen hundred dollars is just a drop in the bucket and amounts to nothing more than a token gesture.

Some farmers who needed help the most failed to qualify for rebate because banks refused to give them loans. Some farmers were not aware of the program as it was so poorly advertised. Farmers who own more than 75 per cent of their assets did not even qualify. The Ontario government has to make a far greater commitment to the agricultural industry if indeed Ontario is ever to become again self sufficient in food production.

In the short term, the government must establish an emergency rescue program whereby farmers will be guaranteed refinancing at rates of approximately eight per cent where this would make the farm operation viable. As an interim solution to the present problem of high interest rates, the government must subsidize

interest rates for short and intermediate bank loans and loans from farm suppliers for all farmers.

The provincial interest rate assistance program will apply to a maximum of $250,000 in loans for an individual farmer and $500,000 for a partnership. This subsidy can operate on a sliding scale. Farmers with less than 50 per cent equity will receive 100 per cent subsidy and anything over a 50 per cent equity would receive a lesser amount of subsidy on a sliding scale, to a point where farmers with 90 per cent to 100 per cent equity will receive 20 per cent of the interest banks charge over 12 per cent. Between 90 per cent and 50 per cent equities, payment will be based on a sliding scale.

In other words, farmers will be eligible for interest assistance on bank loans over 12 per cent, and this would be restricted to Canadian residents.

There should be a suspension of foreclosures and forced liquidation, and all cases should be referred to an independent review agency before a bank or creditor may exercise his power of sale or foreclosure. The need for long-term financing remains as great as ever. Every year since I have been in this Legislature, I have urged the government to reinstate a long-term financing program similar to the junior farmer establishment loan program which was in effect for a number of years in this province.

The provincial government should also urge the Farm Credit Corporation to provide more funds and review lending criteria. The small business development loans program should be broadened to include unincorporated farmers and the federal government should be urged to make provision whereby interest received from loans to farmers be tax exempt, thereby reducing interest rates on such loans.

These are proposals which the Ontario Federation of Agriculture considered at its last directors' meeting, and they are proposals which we in the Liberal caucus are certainly prepared to adopt.

It is high time this government gave a greater commitment to the agricultural industry in Ontario. It is time this government reorganized its priorities. Oil, automobile manufacturers and farm machinery manufacturers are being provided with special assistance programs, while agriculture is getting less than its share. What is more fundamental to society than the need for food? Yet agriculture is always the last in line for assistance.

If the Minister of Agriculture and Food for Ontario is not prepared to give a greater commitment to the agricultural industry in this province, then I will be joining the farmers of Ontario and the organizations representing the farmers in this province in calling for his resignation. Agriculture is too important an industry in this province to be given so little attention by this government.

Mr. Speaker, I did have some interesting comments, at least I thought they would be interesting, to make on education. Have I got the time?

Mr. Nixon: Sure.

Mr. Riddell: Let me launch into that then.

I referred in my opening remarks to three crises I felt we were facing; one being the economic situation. I made mention of just one sector of that, which is the farming industry, but believe me, there are many small businessmen in trouble too. I then talked about national unity and about the philosophical or spiritual or moral crisis.

One reason we are so ill-equipped emotionally and intellectually to handle the first two crises of the economy and national unity is that we really have no consensus as Canadians about what we want out of life for ourselves, our families, our communities or our country.

From the time of Plato, it has been the task of philosophers to orient society towards the pursuit of the good, of justice and of wisdom. Today in North America, none of these is a primary virtue. If we took a candid look at ourselves in North America, we would see ourselves as a bunch of sheep being manipulated by television into the belief that the good life consists of buying new cars with computer controlled ashtrays or detergents which will win friends and influence people throughout the immediate neighbourhood.

The idea of voluntary service, indeed service itself, seems almost an anachronism practised by a few eccentrics who gamely struggle on with school board duties or running a scout pack or giving blood to the Red Cross. What is missing, and nowhere more than in our educational system, is a strong sense of the way things ought to be.

We have gone so overboard in emphasizing value-free education that we have totally stamped out any notions that some things are simply evil and wrong. We are so bound and determined to explain away human actions as simply the product of a bad social environment that we have abolished free will.

We are never to blame for anything we do. It

is all mummy and daddy's fault. But they are not to blame either because it was really grandma and grandpa who, in turn, are not to blame because, et cetera.

12:40 p.m.

Here in Canada we are facing three long-term crises. We think about our children, then we think about the school system and we ask ourselves, "Are we preparing our children for the reality of these crises or are we sending them out into the world of the 1980s unarmed?" Is it fair to have a school system based on a whole set of assumptions which do not reflect the reality of the world?

What are our schools and universities doing today? First, they are catering to the lowest common denominator. Everyone must pass everything, whether he is stupid or bright, lazy or industrious, because it is not nice to fail people. Indeed, it is undemocratic and elitist. The conveyor belt runs unchecked from grade one to the bachelor of arts and all the quality control inspectors are out on lunch breaks.

Of course, since no one is allowed to fail, no one is allowed to succeed either, because that would be competitive and competition is traumatic for young minds. Genuinely bright, talented children are kept down by the system and by peer pressure which, for some reason, recognizes that not all hockey players are created equal, but finds this notion abhorrent in an academic context.

Another feature of education today is everything must be fun, fun, fun. It is time students realized that periodically they simply have to learn things in a way they might find just a teensy bit unpleasant. Life is full of these little disappointments, as they will shortly discover for themselves.

Then there is the myth of the child which runs rampant throughout the school system. Do not for heaven's sake discipline or direct a child in any way which is not fun, fun, fun, because this will stifle the creative genius latent in each of these tiny, perfect beings. Instead, let him do his own thing.

If he prefers Saturday Night Fever to MacBeth, this is not a matter of opinion or taste, this is a creative choice. We must not impose our tired old cultural notions on these fresh young things. After all, who knows best what is good for them? They do, of course. This picture of the school system today is outrageously unfair to a lot—

An hon. member: Did you write this, Jack?

Mr. Riddell: Listen, I have been in the school profession a lot longer than my friend has. I know something about it. I happen to teach school. I happen to be a trustee on the board of education. My friend should not shoot off his mouth in this Legislature and tell me I do not know what I am talking about when I am talking about education.

This picture of the school system today is outrageously unfair to a lot of good schools and good teachers, but I think that in a caricature way I have conveyed the essence of the basic operating principles of modern education. I, for one, think these principles are not only utter claptrap, but also dangerously wrong for the years ahead. There is such a profound gulf between the crises I have described and the educational system as it currently exists that I doubt very much we can survive as a society or a nation if we go on educating people in this fashion.

What is there to do? The name Pictou may not mean much to the members. It is a small town on the northern shore of Nova Scotia facing out towards Prince Edward Island. In 1773 the first shipload of highland Scots—and I am proud to be a descendant of the good Scottish breed—landed at Pictou, driven out of their native Scotland by the highland clearances. The new community was a wild and backward place with a high degree of illiteracy.

In 1803 a critical event took place; the arrival of the Reverend Thomas McCulloch from Glasgow. McCulloch was not only a Presbyterian clergyman, he was also a born teacher. He began instructing the young in science and the liberal arts. In 1818 the Pictou Academy was built. Starting in a complete void, McCulloch was able to prepare students of this frontier community for advanced work in the major Scottish unversities.

The Pictou Academy went on to produce leaders in church, state, business and universities through the Dominion, men such as Sir William Dawson, who became principal of McGill University.

We have the paradox of one man with very limited resources teaching a group of essentially ignorant Scottish country folk so successfully that a significant number became national leaders, while today, with the billions we pour into education, we cannot produce a crop of students to touch the alumni of the Pictou Academy.

What went wrong? Or, more positively, what did Thomas McCulloch do right? I think the

first lesson to be drawn from the Pictou story is quite encouraging. An individual with the right ideas and a strong enough will can make an enormous difference. Teachers and parents should both take heart from this.

Secondly, McCulloch also had a very precise notion of what he was doing. Unlike so many of today's confused educators, he saw education as a matter for the whole human personality; not simply the academic side but also the moral. In 1806, when he opened his first school, he said:

"Our view in establishing this institution is the instruction of youth. We do not merely desire to advance them in learning, we propose that much care be taken in forming their minds by connecting the natural propensities of the heart and instilling into them the principles of virtue, that education may not merely make them great but good men and good members of society. In doing so, we intend to furnish them with the means of an extensive and liberal education and this we hope, in connection with the former, will tend to make them ornaments to human nature and an honour to their country."

We see here a view of human nature which recognizes its weakness but sees its correction. Above all, McCulloch wanted to produce good men and good members of society. But McCulloch could not have succeeded unless the values for which he stood were generally supported by the society in which he lived.

The Presbyterian church had a tradition of scholarship in its clergy and the church reinforced the value of education for all its members. The highland Scots had a thirst and a hunger for education. It was not family or wealth which made the leaders of this society, it was education which led to goodness and wisdom. In its most straightforward form, it meant that people who chose to remain ignorant and uneducated would be tolerated but command no respect whatsoever in the community. In short, this society was a meritocracy in which leadership went to the educated and talented.

The third point of this story is that for an educational system to succeed there has to be a consensus of values among teachers, parents and students. If a teacher asks for higher standards but the parent refuses to support the teacher, who insists that homework take precedence over television or hanging around on street corners, then the teacher will fail.

In today's world, to achieve this consensus there must be a total war waged on the sloppy, sleazy, passive sludge purveyed on North American television and radio. We must learn to demand of our children that they read copiously, write properly, be informed, articulate their ideas clearly, keep fit and treat other people decently. If we think these are goals worth aiming for, then we had better try to attain them ourselves.

In other words, we have to challenge our children. We have to stretch them, make them find the great reserves of intelligence, character and strength which lie within all of us. We have to teach them to strive for excellence in whatever they do. We have to create a society in which talented, intelligent, dedicated people displace rock stars and Farrah Fawcett Majors as our cultural heroes. If we are going to survive in the 1980s, we are going to need leaders with the brains and the character to see us through this troubled decade.

Young people complain today about the lack of jobs, but there is one job going begging and that is the job of a leader. We need people who will take risks, who will be entrepreneurial, who will come up with the economic solutions to get us out of this morass. We need people with the intelligence, the courage, the imagination and the conviction to see us through the great crisis of national unity. We need all sorts of people the school system is not producing. We need people who can speak languages—French for starters, but also Spanish, Japanese, Chinese and any other tongue which will help us export our products. We claim to be a nation of traders but there is not a business school or university in this country which demands that all of its graduates possess second and third languages.

12:50 p.m.

I do not view the future of this country as hopeless. Our three crises are also great challenges, great adventures for those who are brave enough to try. But if our young people will become the adventurers that Canada needs, we will need a much tougher school system. We need schools which are highly competitive and internationally competitive. We need to recognize and promote gifted children and to demand far more of our children than we do at present. We have to locate all learning, indeed all living, in a moral context and to show people, as Thomas McCulloch did, that they must be good men and women, and give them some guidelines.

Perhaps what a Canadian educational system needs most of all is a sense of the vision of what Canada can become if Canadians were more generous towards one another. How can one live in this vast, magnificent land and not be

exalted by the space, the freedom, the potential? Yet all around us is pettiness, bickering and selfishness. There is a sense of helplessness and resignation.

As parents, teachers and students, and as Canadians, we owe it to our forebears, ourselves and our descendants to have a far grander vision of Canada, of the greatness which is there, if only we would work for it with steady hands, cool heads and warm hearts.

Ms. Bryden: In view of the hour, would it be permissible to move adjournment of the debate at this time?

The Deputy Speaker: It being close to one o'clock, I think that would be in order.

On motion by Ms. Bryden, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

ERRATA

No.	Page	Col.	Line	Should read
6	171	2	52	The current pension mess in this province and
6	173	2	21	design, to provide a reasonable amount of
6	173	2	25	investment and forms of benefit." Compulsory?
6	175	1	7	Humber (Mr. Leluk) is talking about with respect
6	175	1	35	something in the order of 40 per cent of welfare recipients and 52 per cent of provincial family
6	179	2	38	dent, on a réissui à abolir le projet du loi 17. On se souvient que c'est grâce, justement,

APPENDIX*

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS

(125 members)

First Session of the Thirty-Second Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. John B. Aird, OC, QC

Speaker: Hon. John M. Turner **Clerk of the House: Roderick Lewis, QC**

Member	Constituency	Party
Andrewes, P. W.	Lincoln	PC
Ashe, Hon. G. L.	Durham West	PC
Baetz, Hon. R. C.	Ottawa West	PC
Barlow, W. W.	Cambridge	PC
Bennett, Hon. C. F.	Ottawa South	PC
Bernier, Hon. L.	Kenora	PC
Birch, Hon. M.	Scarborough East	PC
Boudria, D.	Prescott-Russell	L
Bradley, J. J.	St. Catharines	L
Brandt, A. S.	Sarnia	PC
Breaugh, M. J.	Oshawa	NDP
Breithaupt, J. R.	Kitchener	L
Bryden, M. H.	Beaches-Woodbine	NDP
Cassidy, M.	Ottawa Centre	NDP
Charlton, B. A.	Hamilton Mountain	NDP
Conway, S. G.	Renfrew North	L
Cooke, D. S.	Windsor-Riverside	NDP
Copps, S. M.	Hamilton Centre	L
Cousens, D.	York Centre	PC
Cunningham, E. G.	Wentworth North	L
Cureatz, S. L.	Durham East	PC
Davis, Hon. W. G.	Brampton	PC
Dean, G. H.	Wentworth	PC
Di Santo, O.	Downsview	NDP
Drea, Hon. F.	Scarborough Centre	PC
Eakins, J. F.	Victoria-Haliburton	L
Eaton, R. G.	Middlesex	PC
Edighoffer, H. A.	Perth	L
Elgie, Hon. R. G.	York East	PC
Elston, M. J.	Huron-Bruce	L
Epp, H. A.	Waterloo North	L
Eves, E. L.	Parry Sound	PC
Fish, S. A.	St. George	PC
Foulds, J. F.	Port Arthur	NDP
Gillies, P. A.	Brantford	PC
Gordon, J. K.	Sudbury	PC
Grande, T.	Oakwood	NDP

*The lists in this appendix, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard on the first Friday of each month and in the first and last issues of each session.

Member	Constituency	Party
Gregory, Hon. M. E. C.	Mississauga East	PC
Grossman, Hon. L. S.	St. Andrew-St. Patrick	PC
Haggerty, R.	Erie	L
Harris, M. D.	Nipissing	PC
Havrot, E. M.	Timiskaming	PC
Henderson, Hon. L. C.	Lambton	PC
Hennessy, M.	Fort William	PC
Hodgson, W.	York North	PC
Johnson, J. M.	Wellington-Dufferin-Peel	PC
Johnston, R. F.	Scarborough West	NDP
Jones, T.	Mississauga North	PC
Kells, M. C.	Humber	PC
Kennedy, R. D.	Mississauga South	PC
Kerr, G. A.	Burlington South	PC
Kerrio, V. G.	Niagara Falls	L
Kolyn, A.	Lakeshore	PC
Lane, J. G.	Algoma-Manitoulin	PC
Laughren, F.	Nickel Belt	NDP
Leluk, Hon. N. G.	York West	PC
Lupusella, A.	Dovercourt	NDP
MacDonald, D. C.	York South	NDP
Mackenzie, R. W.	Hamilton East	NDP
MacQuarrie, R. W.	Carleton East	PC
Mancini, R.	Essex South	L
Martel, E. W.	Sudbury East	NDP
McCaffrey, Hon. R. B.	Armourdale	PC
McCague, Hon. G. R.	Dufferin-Simcoe	PC
McClellan, R. A.	Bellwoods	NDP
McEwen, J. E.	Frontenac-Addington	L
McGuigan, J. F.	Kent-Elgin	L
McKessock, R.	Grey	L
McLean, A. K.	Simcoe East	PC
McMurtry, Hon. R. R.	Eglinton	PC
McNeil, R. K.	Elgin	PC
Miller, Hon. F. S.	Muskoka	PC
Miller, G. I.	Haldimand-Norfolk	L
Mitchell, R. C.	Carleton	PC
Newman, B.	Windsor-Walkerville	L
Nixon, R. F.	Brant-Oxford-Norfolk	L
Norton, Hon. K. C.	Kingston and the Islands	PC
O'Neil, H. P.	Quinte	L
Peterson, D. R.	London Centre	L
Philip, E. T.	Etobicoke	NDP
Piché, R. L.	Cochrane North	PC
Pollock, J.	Hastings-Peterborough	PC
Pope, Hon. A. W.	Cochrane South	PC
Ramsay, Hon. R. H.	Sault Ste. Marie	PC
Reed, J. A.	Halton-Burlington	L

Member	Constituency	Party
Reid, T. P.	Rainy River	L. LAB.
Renwick, J. A.	Riverdale	NDP
Riddell, J. K.	Huron-Middlesex	L
Robinson, A. M.	Scarborough-Ellesmere	PC
Rotenberg, D.	Wilson Heights	PC
Roy, A. J.	Ottawa East	L
Runciman, R. W.	Leeds	PC
Ruprecht, T.	Parkdale	L
Ruston, R. F.	Essex North	L
Samis, G. R.	Cornwall	NDP
Sargent, E. C.	Grey-Bruce	L
Scrivener, M.	St. David	PC
Sheppard, H. N.	Northumberland	PC
Shymko, Y. R.	High Park-Swansea	PC
Smith, S. L.	Hamilton West	L
Snow, Hon. J. W.	Oakville	PC
Spensieri, M. A.	Yorkview	L
Stephenson, Hon. B. M.	York Mills	PC
Sterling, Hon. N. W.	Carleton-Grenville	PC
Stevenson, K. R.	Durham-York	PC
Stokes, J. E.	Lake Nipigon	NDP
Swart, M. L.	Welland-Thorold	NDP
Sweeney, J.	Kitchener-Wilmot	L
Taylor, G. W.	Simcoe Centre	PC
Taylor, J. A.	Prince Edward-Lennox	PC
Timbrell, Hon. D. R.	Don Mills	PC
Treleaven, R. L.	Oxford	PC
Turner, Hon. J. M.	Peterborough	PC
Van Horne, R. G.	London North	L
Villeneuve, O. F.	Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry	PC
Walker, Hon. G. W.	London South	PC
Watson, A. N.	Chatham-Kent	PC
Welch, Hon. R. S.	Brock	PC
Wells, Hon. T. L.	Scarborough North	PC
Wildman, B.	Algoma	NDP
Williams, J.	Oriole	PC
Wiseman, Hon. D. J.	Lanark	PC
Worton, H.	Wellington South	L
Wrye, W. M.	Windsor-Sandwich	L
Yakabuski, P. J.	Renfrew South	PC

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Hon. W. G. Davis	Premier and President of the Council
Hon. R. S. Welch	Minister of Energy and Deputy Premier
Hon. T. L. Wells	Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
Hon. L. Bernier	Minister of Northern Affairs
Hon. J. W. Snow	Minister of Transportation and Communications
Hon. M. Birch	Provincial Secretary for Social Development
Hon. C. F. Bennett	Minister of Housing
Hon. F. S. Miller	Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics
Hon. D. R. Timbrell	Minister of Health
Hon. B. M. Stephenson	Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities
Hon. R. R. McMurtry	Attorney General and Solicitor General
Hon. L. C. Henderson	Minister of Agriculture and Food
Hon. K. C. Norton	Minister of the Environment
Hon. F. Drea	Minister of Community and Social Services
Hon. L. Grossman	Minister of Industry and Tourism
Hon. G. McCague	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet and Chairman of Cabinet
Hon. R. C. Baetz	Minister of Culture and Recreation
Hon. D. J. Wiseman	Minister of Government Services
Hon. R. G. Elgie	Minister of Labour
Hon. G. W. Walker	Provincial Secretary for Justice and Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations
Hon. M. E. C. Gregory	Minister without Portfolio
Hon. A. W. Pope	Minister of Natural Resources
Hon. N. G. Leluk	Minister of Correctional Services
Hon. G. L. Ashe	Minister of Revenue
Hon. R. H. Ramsay	Provincial Secretary for Resources Development
Hon. R. B. McCaffrey	Minister without Portfolio
Hon. N. W. Sterling	Minister without Portfolio

PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANTS

Eaton, R. G. (Middlesex)	Assistant to the Minister of Transportation and Communications
Hodgson, W. (York North)	Assistant to the Minister of Housing
Jones, T. (Mississauga North)	Assistant to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development
Kennedy, R. D. (Mississauga South)	Assistant to the Minister of Education
Lane, J. G. (Algoma-Manitoulin)	Assistant to the Minister of Northern Affairs
McNeil, R. K. (Elgin)	Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Food
Rotenberg, D. (Wilson Heights)	Assistant to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
Watson, A. N. (Chatham-Kent)	Assistant to the Minister of Community and Social Services
Yakabuski, P. J. (Renfrew South)	Assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources

STANDING COMMITTEES

Administration of justice: Messrs. Andrewes, Bradley, Breithaupt, Elston, Gordon, MacQuarrie, Mitchell, Piche, Renwick, Swart, Treleaven and Williams; clerk, S. Forsyth.

General government: Messrs. Barlow, Brandt, Ms. Bryden, Ms. Copps, Messrs. Eves, Hennessy, Kells, McGuigan, McKessock, Runciman, Sheppard and Wildman; clerk, F. Nokes.

Resources development: Messrs. Eakins, Eaton, Harris, Havrot, J. M. Johnson, Kerrio, Lane, Laughren, McNeil, Riddell, Stevenson and Stokes; clerk, A. Richardson.

Social development: Mr. Dean, Ms. Fish, Messrs. Gillies, R. F. Johnston, Jones, Kennedy, Kolyn, McClellan, Ruprecht, Shymko, Sweeney and Van Horne; clerk, D. Arnott.

Members' services: Messrs. Boudria, Di Santo, Hodgson, Kerr, McLean, O'Neil, Robinson, Rotenberg, Ruston, Samis, G. W. Taylor and Watson; clerk, A. Richardson.

Procedural affairs: Messrs. Breaugh, Charlton, Edighoffer, Epp, Kerr, Mancini, McLean, Robinson, Rotenberg, G. W. Taylor, Watson and Hodgson; clerk, S. Forsyth.

Public accounts: Messrs. Cousens, Cunningham, Foulds, Peterson, Philip, Pollock, T. P. Reid, Sargent, Mrs. Scrivener, Messrs. J. A. Taylor, Villeneuve and Yakabuski; clerk, G. White.

Regulations and other statutory instruments: Messrs. Barlow, Brandt, Eves, Grande, Haggerty, Hennessy, Kells, MacDonald, McEwen, G. I. Miller, Runciman and Sheppard; clerk, D. Arnott.

CONTENTS

Friday, May 1, 1981

Tributes to Yaakov Suslensky, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Shymko, Mr. Smith, Mr. Cassidy. 267

Death of Ernest Griffith, Mr. Drea. 268

Redirection of questions; question period, Speaker's ruling, Mr. Cassidy. 268

Statements by the ministry

Davis, Hon. W. G., Premier:

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. 276

Oral questions

Birch, Hon. M., Provincial Secretary for Social Development:

Health disciplines board, Mr. Van Horne, Mr. Ruprecht. 278

Davis, Hon. W. G., Premier:

Staff reductions, Mr. Wildman. 279

Gasoline purchases by US motorists, Mr. Haggerty. 280

Rural hydro costs, Mr. T. P. Reid, Mr. Foulds. 281

Elgie, Hon. R. G., Minister of Labour:

Hospital workers, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. T. P. Reid, Ms. Copps. 274

Hospital staff discrimination, Ms. Copps. 275

Workmen's compensation, Mr. McClellan. 278

Coke oven emissions, Mr. Mackenzie, Mr. Wildman. 280

Grossman, Hon. L. S., Minister of Industry and Tourism:

Grants to pulp and paper companies, Mr. Smith, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. T. P. Reid. 269

Ramsay, Hon. R. H., Provincial Secretary for Resources Development:

Ridge landfill site, Mr. McGuigan. 279

Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities:

University funding, Mr. Smith, Mr. Grande. 272

Film production courses, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Boudria. 273

Don Bosco High School, Mr. Grande. 282

Wells, Hon. T. L., Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs:

Municipal meetings, Ms. Bryden. 281

First readings

Employment Standards Amendment Act, Bill 32, Mr. Mackenzie. 282

Employment Standards Amendment Act, Bill 33, Mr. Mackenzie. 282

Employment Standards Amendment Act, Bill 34, Mr. Mackenzie. 283

Employment Standards Amendment Act, Bill 35, Mr. Mackenzie. 283

Employment Standards Amendment Act, Bill 36, Mr. Mackenzie. 283

Employment Standards Amendment Act, Bill 37, Mr. Mackenzie. 283

Employment Standards Amendment Act, Bill 38, Mr. Mackenzie. 283

Employment Standards Amendment Act, Bill 39, Mr. Mackenzie. 283

Employment Standards Amendment Act, Bill 40, Mr. Mackenzie. 283

Employment Standards Amendment Act, Bill 41, Mr. Mackenzie. 284
Crown Employees Collective Bargaining Amendment Act, Bill 42, Mr. Mackenzie. 284
Public Servants Political Rights Act, Bill 43, Mr. Mackenzie. 284
Disabled Persons Employment Act, Bill 44, Mr. Mackenzie. 284
Employment Standards Declaration Act, Bill 45, Mr. Mackenzie. 284

Procedures of the House, point of order, Mr. Nixon, Mr. Foulds. 284

Throne speech debate

Mr. Mitchell. 285
Mr. Riddell. 288

Adjournment. 296

Errata. 296

Appendix, alphabetical list of members of the Legislature of Ontario, the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of standing committees. 297

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Birch, Hon. M.; Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Scarborough East PC)
Boudria, D. (Prescott-Russell L)
Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
Copps, S. M. (Hamilton Centre L)
Cureatz, S. L. (Durham East PC)
Davis, Hon. W. G.; Premier (Brampton PC)
Drea, Hon. F; Minister of Community and Social Services (Scarborough Centre PC)
Eakins, J. F. (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Elgie, Hon. R. G.; Minister of Labour (York East PC)
Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)
Grossman, Hon. L. S.; Minister of Industry and Tourism (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
Haggerty, R. (Erie L)
Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)
McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
McGuigan, J. F. (Kent-Elgin L)
Mitchell, R. C. (Carleton PC)
Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
Peterson, D. R. (London Centre L)
Ramsay, Hon. R. H.; Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Sault Ste. Marie PC)
Reid, T. P. (Rainy River L-Lab.)
Riddell, J. K. (Huron-Middlesex L)
Ruprecht, T. (Parkdale L)
Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea PC)
Smith, S. L. (Hamilton West L)
Stephenson, Hon. B. M.; Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities (York Mills PC)
Sweeney, J. (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
Turner, Hon. J. M.; Speaker (Peterborough PC)
Van Horne, R. G. (London North L)
Wells, Hon. T. L.; Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Scarborough North PC)
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)

Ontario

No. 10

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



First Session, Thirty-Second Parliament
Monday, May 4, 1981

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

Hansard subscription price is $15.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Central Purchasing Service, Print Procurement Section, Ministry of Government Services, 8th Floor, Ferguson Block, Parliament Buildings, Toronto M7A 1N3. Phone (416) 965-2238.

Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Monday, May 4, 1981

The House met at 2:01 p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask all honourable members to join with me to extend a warm welcome to the members of the Alberta Legislature's select committee on the constitution. The chairman is the Honourable Gerry Amerongen, Speaker of the Legislature.

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

Mr. Speaker: I have today received an order in council dated May 1, 1981, appointing the following as members of the Board of Internal Economy: The Speaker will be the chairman; Honourable Thomas Leonard Wells, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council from among the members of the executive council; Honourable Milton Edward Charles Gregory, Minister without Portfolio, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council from among the members of the executive council; Honourable Robert Bruce McCaffrey, Minister without Portfolio, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council from among the members of the executive council; John McLellan Johnson, MPP, appointed by the caucus of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party; Robert Fletcher Nixon, MPP, appointed by the caucus of the Liberal Party of Ontario; Elie Walter Martel, MPP, appointed by the caucus of the New Democratic Party of Ontario.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

SUDBURY SCIENCE CENTRE

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, as many honourable members know, the people of the Sudbury basin have been planning intensively during the last year for the development of one of the most vividly exciting and fundamentally important projects that has been undertaken anywhere in our province in some years. The project of which I speak is the Sudbury Science Centre.

The Sudbury Science Centre will not be a mere clone of the Ontario Science Centre. It will explore the scientific principles and laws at play in the universe from the unique perspective of a particular part of that universe. In both its form and substance the centre will be rooted in the geology and the geophysics of the basin, its human settlement and the ways in which man has related to its natural endowments, with mining and smelting comprising a significant part of that relationship.

The concept underpinning the Sudbury Science Centre is absolutely breathtaking in its scope and vision. It embraces the cataclysmic 2.5 billion year history of this earth in the great Sudbury region. It celebrates the imagination and industry of the people who have settled the Sudbury basin and made it come alive, from the indigenous copper-culture Indians of 7,000 years ago to the Europeans who went there to work in the great mining industry and who planted many of the roots for the multicultural reality that has survived in the Sudbury area today.

It reaches out to the whole of the north and stimulates a new and rich exploration and appreciation of this region and its people. It is the Sudbury Science Centre, but it is more. It helps create an important tourism context for the north. It is a bright new star in the constellation of interpretative sites that shines in our province. It joins ranks with the likes of Old Fort William at Thunder Bay, the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, the Huronia Historical Parks at Midland, the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, and, of course, the Ontario Science Centre in Don Mills. For it will surely captivate us and excite in us a deeper understanding of who we are, where we came from, and why we are here.

It is in its concept, and it will be in its fulfilment, an institution that is province-wide in importance. In that context, it is only fitting that all the people of Ontario should join hands with the people of the Sudbury basin and the Ontario north to help make this dream come true.

So today, I wish to announce that the government of Ontario, on behalf of the people of Ontario, will invest a total of $10 million in the construction and operation of the Sudbury Science Centre. The total cost of the project is budgeted at $18.3 million. Of the province's $10 million contribution, $7 million will be dedicated to the construction of the centre. The remaining $3 million will be used as an investment fund. The interest that the fund earns will be devoted

to the operating costs that the centre incurs day by day and year by year.

So the province is becoming an important partner in this enterprise, but I think it is essential to emphasize here that the province is becoming only a partner. As many honourable members know, there have been highly significant private sector contributions to the development of this centre. Inco Limited has pledged $5 million to the project, which will be owned and operated by a local, private, nonprofit corporation called the Sudbury Science Centre Incorporated. Falconbridge Nickel Mines Limited has already pledged $1 million.

We have been told by the officers of the Sudbury Science Centre Incorporated that our commitment, coming at this time, will help them to attract the necessary additional private sector support. They are also confident that our commitment will encourage the federal government to get involved in the project.

The provincial government's contribution speaks plainly to the significance of the Sudbury Science Centre. It speaks to the government's understanding of the historic human and physical importance of the north. And it also speaks to the government's appreciation of the continuing need for economic, social and cultural development in the north. It gives me great satisfaction to bring this news of the government's involvement in the Sudbury Science Centre to this House. I know all honourable members will share that satisfaction and a great enthusiasm for this outstanding project.

ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the House leader could inform me whether the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Walker) will be coming later. Does he have any idea? Thank you very much.

GRADE 13 GRADUATES

Mr. Smith: I will direct my first question to the Minister of Education. Can the minister explain to this House how it is that on campuses in Ontario today there are graduates of a 12-grade system from many other provinces of Canada, like Alberta, while graduates from Ontario have to have completed 13 grades to be on exactly the same footing?

Now before the minister shakes her head too forcefully I will tell her I will be glad to bring into this Legislature many students who graduated after 12 grades in other provinces and are on an equal footing today with 13 grade graduates from Ontario. Why is it that it takes the youth of Ontario 13 years in the minds of Ontario universities to accomplish the same grounding and basics that youth in other provinces can manage in 12 years?

2:10 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the Leader of the Opposition would be aware that there are a number of universities in Ontario that also accept in specific programs, on an equal footing with students from other schools in Ontario, students from Ontario schools who are graduates of grade 12.

The honourable member is obviously aware that the secondary school education review project has been asked specifically to look at this matter and is, in its interim paper today, making some recommendations which bear strong relevance to the question which he has asked.

It is a matter which has been of concern within this province, and traditionally has been based upon the concept that the number of years required to achieve a BA degree at the university be universal throughout Canada. That basis has been very validly upheld during all of the years in which grade 13 has been in existence in Ontario, but it is a matter which we feel very strongly needs to be reviewed at this time.

Mr. Smith: By way of supplementary, since the minister has now been Minister of Education for about three years and must by now have formed an opinion on this matter, and since she has certainly not hesitated to express opinions on many other matters, surely the minister can tell the people of Ontario what opinion she has come to.

Since the highly paid review board she speaks of has already come up with a recommendation that grade 13 should not be required in Ontario, and since she has the benefit of that opinion of the review board, and since she herself has been minister for three years, surely she would care, Mr. Speaker, to express some opinion on this matter as to whether we will require our youth to go to high school for 13 grades when our own campuses are willing to accept grade 12 graduates from other schools on an equal footing with our grade 13 graduates.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, unlike the honourable member, I do not attempt to impose my personal opinion on policy development within Ontario. I object strenuously to the concern expressed by the honourable member about the high level of remuneration for

those individuals who have served for the past year. They have served without remuneration, except for the director of the project.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary, Mr. Cassidy.

Mr. Cassidy: Since these questions flow from the commission that has just reported on secondary education across the province, will the minister undertake that whatever recommendations of the secondary review panel are accepted by the government, that the government will now move in order to increase the provincial funding of local education costs to 60 per cent, as has been recommended by this commission, as was recommended by the Jackson commission and was recommended by the committee on the cost of education back in 1975?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable members would take out their pocket calculators and add all of the funding which is provided in direct general legislative grants, and the funding which is provided to support education in a number of other ways, including the seniors' tax grant credit, they would find that this province this year is providing more than 61 per cent of the total cost of elementary/secondary education across Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Final supplementary, Mr. Cassidy.

Mr. Cassidy: Would the minister not agree that the question is whether the provincial share of general legislative grants to education is to be raised to 60 per cent or not, and will the minister undertake that whatever else happens, Ontario's share will be raised to 60 per cent so that property tax payers should not find themselves almost forced out of their homes because of the high levels of education tax they have to pay locally?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is absolute nonsense, Mr. Speaker. The property tax in this province has increased significantly less over the past decade in terms of support of education than the grants from the province of Ontario have increased. It increased significantly less than the consumer price index, as a matter of fact, over that period.

Mr. Smith: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Could the minister explain, given her willingness to express her opinion on such matters as corporal punishment, the use of the Lord's prayer in school, and a number of other matters, why she is so reticent about expressing herself on the question of whether we require 13 years in our education system before our students are ready for higher education? Why can she not express her personal opinion on this matter at this time?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the law of Ontario has required for many years, and still requires, the use of the Lord's prayer in opening exercises, or an alternative appropriate prayer. That is a part of the law. If someone wants to change that law, I would be pleased to have submissions from those responsible.

In the area of physical punishment, I did in fact send out a personal opinion to the chairmen of all school boards suggesting that since we were doing the biennial review of regulation 704, in which this specific regulation is situated, it might be well to consider, on the basis of research, the kind of information which has been developed and a suggested modification of that regulation and ask for responses. We are asking for responses to the content of this paper, which is related specifically to one year's full study at an intensive rate by 40 people in this province who represent the broad spectrum of the population of Ontario. I will not prejudge their decision at this point.

Mr. Smith: This the first time I have heard that minister unwilling to express an opinion. After three years as minister she still does not know whether we need 13 grades? Instant policy.

HOTEL FIRES

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I shall ask a question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, who I am sure will be very willing to express an opinion on a matter. He will recall our discussion the other day about the fact that we ought to have one body that is responsible for the investigation of fire safety in various hotels.

Would the minister like to explain to the House what the rationale is behind the present system whereby licensed hotels are inspected by agents who have four to five months of on-the-job training while unlicensed hotels are inspected by someone who is a graduate of the Ontario Fire College, has five years of fire prevention experience with a municipal fire department, and six months of field work?

What possible rationale is there for this double standard in which the unlicensed hotels are inspected by people with all this training and experience while licensed hotels remain under the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario with people with much less training and experience?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, the unlicensed hotels are not under the Hotel Fire Safety Act and that is the rationale for it.

Mr. Smith: That is a marvellous answer. Is the minister going to try to persist with this absolutely ludicrous system in which when one stays in an hotel the chances of its having been adequately inspected will depend on whether or not it happens to be an establishment unlicensed or licensed for the serving of liquor? Is this system going to be persisted in?

Is the minister aware of the coroners' verdicts after a number of fires, including one in Paris, Ontario, at the New Royal Hotel in 1974 and the one at the Wentworth Arms in Hamilton in 1978? Is the minister aware of those coroners' jury reports that have asked that there be only one department responsible, which would be the fire marshal's office, and that it have full responsibility for fire safety in all hotels irrespective of whether liquor is being served?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, we have already moved in that area. With the advent of the new fire code, which will come in under the changes to be brought in shortly by the Solicitor General (Mr. McMurtry), once those come in it will bring together many of the areas and consolidate them. Right now, they are inspected heavily by fire departments under the various acts and they are inspected heavily by the agents of the Solicitor General operating under the Fire Marshals Act. Consequently there is a lot of investigation, a lot of checking and inspection done by agents of the crown one way or the other.

Mr. Breaugh: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: I did not hear from the minister a firm commitment that when they bring in the new fire code they will in fact consolidate all of these various levels of inspection, types of inspectors—whatever—so that people who operate hotels and people who use them will know with some good conscience that the person who conducted the inspection was the most qualified person available for that task; and second, so that they might in future at least get consistent advice as to what to do. Will the minister do that?

2:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Walker: I think you will find, Mr. Speaker, there will be a substantial amount of consolidation once the actual code is before us, and I think you will be impressed by the degree to which that is revealed at that time.

At the moment they are all doing inspections under the fire code itself. I think the member will find the new amendments coming in under the fire code to be extremely stringent, so inspections will occur and the adherence will occur.

Mr. Smith: Supplementary: Is the minister unaware of what I said in the first part of the question, which is that those who are inspecting for the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario have a few months of on-the-job training, and in many instances that is all by way of qualification, whereas those who inspect for the fire marshal's office have all this training at the Ontario Fire College and years of fire prevention work, as well as field work?

Given that discrepancy, which can have no conceivable rationale, will the minister not simply stand in his place and undertake right now that only one body, namely the fire marshal's office under the Solicitor General's ministry, will henceforth be responsible for fire safety and inspection in all hotels of Ontario, irrespective of whether they serve liquor? Why can the minister not make that simple decision right now and not talk about a fire code, which frankly does not even relate to the question of whether one ministry will inspect all hotels?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Exactly the way is it now, Mr. Speaker.

Interjections.

Mr. Smith: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, the minister implies that I have somehow or other been mistaken in this regard. I show him Topical, produced by the Civil Service Commission. Let me just read one paragraph, Mr. Speaker, to clear my reputation in this regard.

Interjections.

Mr. Smith: The Premier (Mr. Davis) and members opposite suggest I should read a whole book to clear my reputation. I do not mind, but for the moment, just to do it in brief, I will read one paragraph: "... the fire marshal's office in the Ministry of the Solicitor General enforces the Hotel Fire Safety Act ... in hotels licensed by the Ministry of Industry and Tourism. The Liquor Licence Board of Ontario"—which, as I say, have different qualifications for their people—"enforces the Hotel Fire Safety Act in hotels that come under the Liquor Licence Act."

Nothing could be clearer than that.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Do not believe everything you read.

Speaking to the point of privilege raised by

the honourable member, the fact of the matter is that the liquor licence inspectors—yes, they are liquor licence inspectors, but they are in effect retained as agents by the Solicitor General. They even write on the same pad that says "Office of the Fire Marshal," and they carry out the same investigation as the fire marshal's people do. The only difference is there is a consolidation, in effect, that is being done by one inspector who inspects one thing on one occasion and on other occasions spends it on the other.

And, yes, a fair number of them are extremely well qualified and they are the ones who are doing the inspections. That is the part that the Leader of the Opposition is not realizing. Why does he not read more accurately?

HOUSE PRICES

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister of high-priced housing.

Now that the price of a house in the Metropolitan Toronto region—which includes all of Mississauga, a large part of the region of Durham, and part of the region of York—has risen in the month of April by $9,662 to the figure of $101,418 for the average house, would the minister tell the House how much further house prices have to rise in the Metropolitan Toronto region before the government is prepared to move in with measures that will keep housing affordable for average families in this province?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, it is rather interesting, the member talks about the Metropolitan Toronto region as his concern and then he wants to know what we are going to do to get a general policy for the province. I am not one who accepts that the whole of Ontario starts and stops in this part of our province. Frankly, Mr. Speaker—and to the Premier, that includes Brampton if I may say so, sir, as well. I thought the Premier was going to turn around and ask for the price of his home. I am not sure what Main Street, in Brampton, is at the moment.

I suggest to the leader of the third party he might like to supply me with the source of the information he happens to be reading from. I would like him to look at some other figures from over the last five or six years in relation to housing in this province.

We get back to the great question of averages, which have little or no application to an individual's requirement or desire; it has to do with a situation in an overall market. But let us look at the period between 1976 and 1980 and the annual increase in housing in the various communities. The member talked about what is happening in this region only, but let us look at the rest of the province.

In Hamilton, the average increase in housing was 4.85 per cent; that is increase in the cost of housing. Then you go to Kitchener for an increase of 7.25 per cent, which is the highest anywhere in this province. Then we get to London, at 6.5 per cent; Oshawa, 3.3 per cent—and I ask the member to question the member of his party from Oshawa if that position is correct. In Ottawa it is 3.7 per cent. The member and I should know a little bit about that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No; the minister should.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Yes, I will accept that as a correction from the Premier, that I should know where the member would not.

In Sudbury it is 5.2 per cent and in Toronto the average in the overall area has been 5.8 per cent. That was between 1976 and 1980, Mr. Speaker, and that has been somewhat below the average inflation factor we have experienced in this country, which was 10.4 per cent over that same period.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary: The minister has kept on saying that people on modest incomes should look outside of the downtown core in order to find themselves a home. Is he aware that in the five cheapest areas of the Metropolitan Toronto region, which stretches from Bay Ridges to the Halton boundary and up past Richmond Hill, the average price of a home in April 1981 ranged from $64,000 to $77,000, and that is far out of reach of average families with the average family income of $27,000 in Metro?

Is he aware that in the month of April alone, in those areas where he says families on modest incomes should be looking for houses, the percentage increase in the price of homes that were sold ranged between 6.5 per cent up to as high as 21 per cent in that one month? How long is this spiral going to go on before the government steps in with action to protect people who want to have homes of their own?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, I will come back to it again: to start dealing with averages is not responding to the individual requirements in this province, or anywhere close to it.

Frankly, the member has seen the figures from the Multiple Listing Service in this part of the province and, indeed, from other parts of Ontario, and there is the availability. Let me assure him the Ontario Mortgage Corporation,

which happens to be an entity owned by the people of Ontario, which includes the member and myself, has something better than 400 units in the Peel and Brampton area, priced at under $40,000, that are available to the market today. Frankly, there is a supply of housing that will meet pretty well every range of income in this province.

I want to emphasize once again that what we are experiencing in Ontario is that today people are not only looking at buying a home as a shelter but they are looking at it from a second aspect as well. I heard about it this morning in the Urban Development Institute conference, along with colleagues from the provinces of Canada—Alberta, Manitoba and British Columbia.

The fact remains that people today are requiring shelter as one aspect of their purchase. As a second aspect they are looking at it as an investment, both long and short term, as to what they can gain back.

Mr. Ruprecht: Supplementary: I would like to ask the minister whether he believes, and if this government believes, that if the average Canadian is willing, able and ready to work very hard to own his own shelter, that is a right every Canadian should have; to own his own home if he is willing to work hard for it?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Again, generalities are very easy to put on the Order Paper or the question paper, Mr. Speaker. First of all, let us look at the fact that not every Canadian—and I challenge any member of this House to criticize this—is really interested in owning his, her or their own home. There are a number of people in our society who do not want to be in the ownership business at all.

Generally speaking—and I repeat what I said a week ago or 10 days ago in this House—it is beyond my comprehension to say that every income group is going to be able to afford a home. There are people in certain certain groups in our economy who obviously will not be into the ownership market at all because of their lack of income.

2:30 p.m.

Let me emphasize to the member who asked the question that we were bribed into the situation on the assisted home ownership program homes by his government in Ottawa. We took people from certain income groups in Canada—not only in Ontario but in Canada—and encouraged them to get into an AHOP home, and five years later they found they were in over their heads.

I do not think it is the position of government to encourage people into a situation that is going to spell disaster for them in the end analysis. Not everyone in this province, in any way, shape or form, is going to be able to or wants to own their own private residence.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Given the fact that investment is an option but having shelter is a necessity for any family in Ontario, is the minister and the government not prepared to act in order to ensure that housing is treated only as a matter of shelter and is made available to people on modest incomes across the province and that people who want to invest can do it on the stock exchange or somewhere else?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, over the last two or three years the criticism around here has been on the question of shelter. Today we have switched away from just the question of shelter. It is a question of investing in ownership.

For a long time government was asked to meet the responsibility or, through it and the private sector, to provide adequate shelter for people in our society—indeed, even if we had to support it through the public purse and the rent supplement program or under the Ontario Housing Corporation. I believe that is exactly the direction this government has moved in over the last number of years to provide adequate accommodation for the people of Ontario.

Mr. Cassidy: That is not true.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: The member for Ottawa Centre says it is not true. I ask him to put the statistics forward, not just to sit there yapping and saying it is not true.

The government has provided rental accommodation through the private sector on programs it initiated, such as the Ontario rental construction loan program we brought out in January. We provided $42 million in special mortgage programs for the private sector to provide low and middle income rental accommodation that would be in short supply—the 10,000 were taken up and within a period of 30 days, we added 50 per cent to that by putting in 15,000 units.

Let me tell the member that Ontario Mortgage Corporation has already authorized something better than 15,000 units at $63 million mortgage funding for this province that will answer in all jurisdictions across Ontario a demand for rental accommodation for middle and low income people.

That is in conjunction with the private sector

and not only provincial or federal government financing. In deference to the private sector, they realize there is an opportunity, if government will give them some assistance, to provide that type of accommodation at a reasonable rent to the people.

In the overall field of housing, I do not accept the terminology I have heard expressed in this House during the last couple of weeks that talks about a crisis. I do not see a crisis. There is a supply of housing for virtually every price range in the marketplace and indeed rental accommodations, I think, through the entire rental—

Mr. Smith: There are none so blind as those who will not see.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: If the member takes off his glasses, he will be in about the same spot.

I think we have supplied the market situation very generally.

ACID RAIN

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I have a new question for the Minister of the Environment respecting his announcement last week that the government was engaging in an all-out war on acid rain. Given the declaration of war the minister unleashed last week, would he explain why it is that Ontario Hydro's program for scrubbers on its coal-fired power plants will not result in a single scrubber being installed in Ontario to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions before 1987?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member was aware fully of my comments on the occasion to which he is referring, I think he would understand that I explained in the course of that address the necessary lead time for such action to be taken by Ontario Hydro. Although he cites the date of 1987, I would like to know precisely where he gets that. The date that I am aware of is 1985.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: If the government and Hydro together have launched an all-out war on acid rain, since Hydro is the second largest source of sulphur dioxide emissions in the province, could the minister explain why the $500 million program cited by Hydro at a time when the government was trying to win votes before the election, back in January when this was announced, calls for the expenditure of only $30 million to $37 million in the program between now and 1985?

If the government is serious about declaring war on acid rain, why is it that the expenditure is all put back to the latter half of the 1980s? Why was the action not undertaken before now or is not going forward right now?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, again the honourable member indicates a lack of understanding of the necessary lead time to put this technology in place. He asks why it is not being done right now and that is surely an indication of his total and complete lack of understanding of the complexity of the problem. The fact is this government has taken action. It has embarked upon a determined program to deal with this situation in the face of the fact that certain other jurisdictions have clearly not.

We are willing and prepared to do something about it, and are doing something about it, yet he does an injustice not only to the programs of this government but the actions on the part of industry and Ontario Hydro, by repeatedly demonstrating his ignorance and saying, "Why is it not being done now?" The fact is, it is a complex problem. It requires commitment. It requires preparedness to see these things phased in, and that is what we are doing.

Mr. Smith: Supplementary: In the battle against these American plants that the minister has recently joined, is the minister at all concerned about the quality of his staff and its information, inasmuch as in the first place the ministry cited 18 coal-fired generating stations that had been previously cited by New York state? Fifteen days later the ministry resubmitted an intervention, this time adding two more stations near Cleveland, which I guess he either had not heard about or was still working on.

Is the minister aware there are another seven coal-fired generating stations in the state of Ohio that have requested emission relaxations, and they do not appear in the Ontario submission at all? Is the minister at all concerned that his officials are doing nothing but parrotting what somebody in New York state says, rather than doing their homework properly?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I cannot respond at this time specifically with regard to individual stations. I will certainly check the information the honourable member has presented to the House and respond station by station, if he wishes. The point is, the action taken by our government and by my predecessor in this ministry was action that was taken prior to the action on the part of some of the other states. I think if we check we will find New York recently took an action that follows upon the action we took.

With regard to the information I receive from my staff, I know I can say with confidence that in my ministry, working on environmental issues, we have some of the finest staff I know of anywhere.

Mr. Smith: I had hopes for you. I had real hopes for you.

Hon. Mr. Norton: It must be a very pleasant task to be able to sit in a minority position on the opposition side of this House and take potshots at the people who are trying to come to grips with the serious problems we face. That is a very easy job, and at times, in the way in which some honourable members approach it, it is rather a sleazy task they undertake. I want to make it very clear that the opinion that the honourable Leader of the Opposition has demonstrated with respect to the staff of my ministry is not shared by scientists in similar fields.

When I was in the United States just last week there were scientists engaged in similar work who were coming forth asking for information from my ministry staff, asking for results of the research we have been undertaking. I can assure the honourable member, in my opinion that is a demonstration of the respect in which our ministry and our ministry staff is held. If the member would not care to take the time to sit down and try to understand the problems and the issues, then the honourable member, it seems to me, is being myopic. This is one area where he may be looking at the issues with his glasses off.

Mr. Cassidy: Before the minister gets too fulsome in praise of his staff, is the minister aware that the level of 450,000 tons of sulphur dioxide and nitrous oxide emissions in 1985, which has been set by the government for Hydro, is the same level of emissions Hydro has managed to achieve or to have had less than for seven of the last eight or 10 years? Would the minister not agree that in declaring an all-out war now, he is effectively attacking his predecessors? If it was a complex problem to resolve, the government should have begun many years ago on the preparations so Hydro would be installing scrubbers today rather than in 1987.

2:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I would first of all advise the honourable member that the figures he is using are incorrect and I will provide him with the correct ones if he would like to know them.

ROAD ALLOWANCES

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the minister of municipal affairs and housing regarding his ministry's right to review applications to close some 66-foot shoreline allowances, mainly in the cottage country.

Is the minister aware of a story in the Haliburton County Echo of an opinion expressed in a letter some years ago by the then Premier of Ontario, Leslie Frost? When writing to his federal member, he said: "The facts are that the provincial government really has nothing to do with this matter. For example, when Haliburton county and adjoining areas were surveyed some 90 years ago, a reservation of 66 feet was left around each lake and all navigable waters for road purposes. When the municipalities were organized at a subsequent date, all the road allowances to each municipality were given to the municipalities. These road allowances do not belong to the province, but, as other road allowances in any municipality, they belong to the municipality."

The letter is significant because it states a position of the provincial government with respect to the allowances that has apparently never been formally altered in legislation. In view of this opinion, does the minister not feel his ministry is exceeding its authority by placing too much red tape before the municipalities to convey these road allowances?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, the road allowance problem has been with us for some period and I recognize that. Frankly, when a municipality wishes to close up the road allowance and designate it to an adjoining property owner, we have gone through a rather complicated procedure and I admit to that as well.

I spoke with the member's planner at lunch today at a conference I happened to speak at and one of the questions raised was along those lines. We said we would be pleased to sit down and review it further with him.

Mr. Eakins: In regard to section 443, will the minister be taking steps to remove some of the great expense and the great length of time that municipalities and individuals must go to in order to convey these lots? At the present time there is a great deal of money involved for the individuals and a great deal of work that the ministry is asking for from municipalities which exceeds what is asked in section 443.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I trust that our review with the municipalities and the associations of municipalities relating to this subject will give us an

opportunity to try to streamline the plan so that it does not involve quite the same cost for municipalities and individuals. But at the same time we will try to give a certain assurance to taxpayers and property owners adjacent to the right of way that their privileges and their rights are not going to be abused.

UREA-FORMALDEHYDE FOAM INSULATION

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health. I wonder if the minister is aware of the impossible position of the people who have urea-formaldehyde insulation in the walls of their homes. Is he aware of the apprehension these people feel about their health knowing that foam is there? If they have pronounced symptoms from the formaldehyde gas, such as bleeding from the nose and nausea, insomnia or headaches, do they continue to live in that house or do they move? If they decide for health reasons to move, how do they sell their house when there is no market for those kinds of houses? Would the minister advise this House and those home owners what those people should do now.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I think we are all concerned, first of all, that we not encourage any panic on anybody's part. Last week I telexed the federal Minister of Health and Welfare regarding the report she tabled almost two weeks ago and on the basis of which she made permanent what was at that point a temporary ban on the use of urea-formaldehyde. I pointed out to Mme. Begin that in the report she had tabled there were two recommendations about which she has not as yet made any comment.

In the report of the expert medical advisory committee to her, one recommendation was that the federal government initiate a national survey of between 800 and 1,000 homes to determine the extent, if any, of health hazards. Essentially what happened is that the expert medical advisory committee said there could be a health hazard and therefore recommended the permanent banning of the product, based on which she did that.

This report went on to say that, first, she should do a national survey of 800 to 1,000 homes to determine what, if any, hazard does exist; second, having done that, the federal government should initiate—I am not sure of the exact wording they used but I will call it a retrofit program—a program to cover the extent of any problem that does exist. In essence, they are saying they do not know how much of a problem it is.

They made these recommendations to the federal minister, who has to date said nothing about either one. I asked Mme. Begin to let us know immediately what her plans are. I indicated to her that the province and the municipal health units are prepared to assist them in carrying out their work. Of course, in the ministry or the health units we do not have all the personnel or, for that matter, all the equipment necessary to do this. Even at the present time, we are relying on equipment that is in another ministry.

I am hopeful I can get an early answer from Mme. Begin. I had an acknowledgement on Thursday from her executive assistant that this will be drawn to her attention immediately. If I do not have an answer in a day or two, I will get back to her in order that we can all be clear, in all the provinces, on what the federal government is going to do to correct this matter with a substance it had approved for use in the country and a substance I am now informed was never approved by our own building code officials.

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary, Mr. Philip.

Mr. Philip: Could the minister advise the House about what instructions he has given to local municipal health inspectors, since I understand from the Etobicoke health inspector that no instructions have come from the ministry? Would he also comment on the fact that while certain municipal health inspectors are doing tests on request, the test being used in places such as Etobicoke is the Drager test. I understand that equipment will measure only to a standard considerably less than the federal government's ambient air standard. When will the minister be sending out some information, in light of his comment that we should not have alarm out there? Isn't it about time that his own municipal health inspectors knew what it is he would like them to do in this program?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, it was in December 1980 that the federal Minister of Health and Welfare placed a temporary ban on the use of this material, which of course was public information. Following receipt of that information from Health and Welfare, we sent out some background information in February to all the medical officers of health—who are the supervisory officers of all the inspectors to whom the member refers—about formaldehyde

gas. We indicated to them that our own Ministry of Labour, which has the equipment required for the fine-tune testing which we do not have in the Ministry of Health, was prepared to offer technical advice.

Once the federal minister released the report to which I just referred, although in my view she had not completed her response to that since she had not covered those two very important recommendations, we followed that up. That is where the matter stands at this point.

The medical officers of health and the chairmen of the boards of health in Metropolitan Toronto met last week and quite rightly decided not to panic and order some massive testing, in the light of the information we provided to them about those two recommendations and the fact that we were seeking to get the federal government's response and action on those two points.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary, Mr. Swart.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, the minister has not answered my question of what he advises these people who are suffering from symptoms to do now. He has passed the buck to the federal government. Surely he must realize that his ministry has responsibility under the Public Health Act for these matters regardless of whether the product was licensed by the federal government or not.

The act reads: "It is the duty of the ministry and it has the power to determine when the existing condition of any premises is a nuisance or injurious to health; to enter into and to go upon any premises in the exercise of any power or the performance of any duty under this act and to make such orders and give such direction with regard to the structural alteration of the premises" et cetera. What is the minister doing about that in the light of other health conditions which have existed and about which he, in other jurisdictions, has given direction where there is this real likelihood of a major health hazard?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, that is just the point. The honourable member obviously has not read the report. The report, in effect, said it could be a health hazard, and based on those findings recommended that it be banned permanently. It then went on to say to the honourable minister in Ottawa, "Find out the extent of the problem in the country, and then, you, the federal government, establish a retrofit program." We are pressing them to do just that in order that a lot of—I suspect when it all shakes down—unfounded fears, can be allayed.

When something like this hits the press, especially when it is a matter like this, inevitably some people assume, because they have a ticklish throat or whatever, that perhaps theirs is a home in which there may be a problem. The only way we are going to find out for certain the extent of the problem is if the federal government will follow the recommendations in the report. If they refuse to exercise their responsibilities, then we will have to reassess the matter at that point.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary, Mr. Nixon.

Mr. Nixon: What have I done to deserve this special treatment? However, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your perception.

I would like to say to the minister, particularly based on the original question from the member for Welland-Thorold, that the people in the community have learned to rely on the medical officers of health in situations like this. It is certainly not sufficient to say, "Don't panic," when they realize that their houses are insulated with materials which are now, by edict, by order of the government of Canada, illegal.

Rather than sit back and wait for the government of Canada to do something, which may be a longer wait than we choose to abide by, would it not be better if he co-operated with his colleague the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Norton) and undertook some readily available tests, particularly for those people who are fearful of the effects of the insulation in their own house, thus taking a responsible position, as the province has in the past under other ministers, and may again?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have that commendation for activities past, perhaps in the last four years.

I have already pointed out that we communicated to the medical officers of health almost three months ago the information available to us, resulting from the then temporary ban on the use of this material, pointing out to them some basic facts about the particular commodity and also further pointing out that if they wanted technical assistance and advice, it was available from the government to assist in whatever follow-up they deemed necessary as medical officers of health in their particular jurisdiction.

Having just come from Hamilton where I spoke to the Association of Boards of Health, I wish I had had the member's commendation beforehand. I would have loved to have passed it on to them.

INTEREST RATES

Mr. McKessock: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. The minister, at a speech given to the Livestock Market Association of Canada on April 24, said, and I quote: "The other major issue right now is interest rates. The solution lies at the federal level. I am sure all those experts in Ottawa could find a way of relieving farmers of this burden." All the experts are not in Ottawa. Other provinces have found their own experts and have come up with interest rebates of $10,000 per farmer, while Ontario experts have only come up with $1,600. Ten thousand dollars and $1,600 really do not compare.

In view of the fact the minister goes on, and I quote, "I hear tragic stories of farm sales which are partly the result of high interest rates and low livestock prices and it makes me furious," I am certainly pleased to see that the minister is now getting furious about this situation. Does the minister now, after a further increase in interest rates last week, intend to take his place among the other Ministers of Agriculture in Canada and give Ontario farmers what the other provinces are getting?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, I am a little bit surprised at the contacts that party over there has with Ottawa. Something like each Thursday the government of Ottawa decides that up goes the interest. This has continued for several months now, and that party keeps supporting them in that. They are well aware where the—

Mr. Ruston: Ask your Premier (Mr. Davis). He is the one who is supporting them.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, we are concerned about the farm people in this province. We will place our position before the Minister of Agriculture, Canada, one week from this Wednesday at nine o'clock in the morning.

Mr. Bradley: Why do you not do something yourself?

Mr. McKessock: Can the minister not see what is happening in the beef and hog industry in Ontario? Does he not feel that the same thing is going to happen as happened in the milk industry a few years ago when Quebec supported its dairy farmers and Ontario did not and we lost milk production to Quebec which we were never able to recover? Quebec farmers now are guaranteeing their beef farmers 90 cents a pound for beef and they are getting money at eight per cent to buy feeders. Is the minister going to familiarize himself with the situation and take action the way the other provinces are?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: We have been investigating these situations, and somehow or other I got a little bit different information than the honourable member did. He suggests that Quebec supported its farmers at 90 cents. It is my understanding that it supported them at 96 cents. We have done a great deal of research, and we are looking at all aspects.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Grande: My question is for the Minister of Education. The secondary education review project committee just reported this morning. It is a discussion paper; we will not have a final report until September some time. One of the recommendations is that the secondary school system should be compressed from five years to four years.

Will the minister ask the people who make up that SERP committee to find out whether the universities will increase a general BA degree from three years to four years? If so, will she say what will happen to the accessibility to post-secondary levels in our institutions for students from working-class families who have to pay an added $2,000 to $4,000 for the first year of university, when in essence right now it is free in grade 13?

Second, what would be the effect on the money the federal government puts into Ontario as a result of Ontario having a grade 13? After these studies are done, would the minister make a commitment to have a select committee on education so that education can be really debated in this province?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is acutely aware that what has been produced is a discussion paper which is to be responded to by everyone who is interested in education. There is no doubt in my mind there will be a large number of responses to some of the suggestions. But it is my understanding the recommendations related to credits within the secondary school program suggest strongly there should be a realignment of the credits in secondary schools to permit those students who wish to do so to complete their entire secondary school education within a four-year period. It is not being suggested it be mandatory that there be a total compression of the secondary school education program to a four-year period.

There will be ample opportunity for teachers, parents and others to respond to the suggestions that are made within this document. There will be opportunity for that steering committee—which is even broader than a select committee of the Legislature—to look at the responses which are developed and to produce what they consider to be a blueprint for education. That, I am sure, will raise a good deal of discussion within this House and within other forums, so that there can be full and complete discussion of secondary education in this province.

3 p.m.

There are implications, even in these suggestions, for both elementary and post-secondary education. There are a number of reassurances which would, in fact, have to be developed in order even to move in the kinds of directions which are being suggested here.

Mr. Grande: Supplementary: I am sure the minister is aware that this particular year—June or September seem to be the critical months—we are going to have in this province a report from the tripartite committee on the funding at the university level. We have the final report of the secondary education review program. We already have a report on primary education and education prior to kindergarten by LaPierre. Would it be a good opportunity some time in September or October for the minister to strike a select committee on education so that the wider community in Ontario could have an input, and not just simply on that close section of the secondary school system, but so it could look at the whole education system and could really begin to have a blueprint for education in the province?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I would remind the honourable member that there are other documents which are out there for discussion at the present time as well, such as the document on polytechnic education and the document on continuing education. All of these matters have been distributed widely, so the entire spectrum of the Ontario population may respond to them if they wish to do so. I cannot believe that those who are concerned about education will not do just that. I would expect that will happen.

At the insistence of the honourable leader of the official opposition, I do not make instant policy, particularly on the hustings, without ever talking to anybody else about it, including my education critic. Secondly, when one asks a group of responsible citizens in this province to undertake a task, it not only is impolite, it would be absolutely immoral to suggest one's personal opinion before one hears what that group which has been asked to provide that service says about it.

WINDSOR LANDFILL

Mr. Ruston: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. Is the minister aware of a proposed expansion of a sanitary landfill site in Essex county to supply the city of Windsor, which will take a great deal of number one farm land out of production? Is the minister making any plans to join with industry and municipalities to build energy-from-waste recovery systems?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I apologize. I was in the midst of reading a report. I wonder if the honourable member would repeat the question.

Mr. Ruston: Now I know what they call it after they win an election. I don't like to use the word, but the Conservative Party is arrogant once it has won the election. The minister doesn't even know what ministry he has. He is a fine fellow but he doesn't know what ministry he has.

Is the Minister of the Environment aware of a proposed expansion of a sanitary landfill site in the county of Essex to serve the city of Windsor which will take out hundreds of acres of prime agricultural land in a high heat-unit area, which is very important, and is the minister making any plans to join with industry and municipalities to build energy-from-waste recovery systems?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and through you to the honourable member, for repeating it. I somehow thought he was asking a supplementary to someone else and I carried on with my reading.

Although I have not been involved on an ongoing basis at this stage with that particular project, it is my understanding that there will be a hearing on the matter. With respect to the latter part of the member's question, as it relates to energy from waste—I believe that is what he was referring to—my colleague the Minister of Energy is the lead minister in those projects and I would be willing to refer that to him if the member would like that second question to be addressed.

Mr. Ruston: May I ask then a supplementary to the Minister of Energy, Mr. Speaker? Is the minister aware of General Motors of Canada

planning—they are in the engineering stage—to build energy from waste into the steam system, and is the minister making any plans to have municipalities and industry, in conjunction with the government, build these energy systems?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Ruston: How soon?

Hon. Mr. Welch: The honourable member, of course, has not been reading all the material that has been coming daily from the Ministry of Energy. We have two demonstration projects on right now in regional Niagara, one with Ontario Paper Company in Thorold as the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) will know, and one with the General Motors plant in the city of St. Catharines. Actually, they are in a very advanced stage with respect to these projects and we expect to be awarding some contracts. It should come as no surprise that a progressive area like the one from which I come would, in fact, take such a leading role.

RADIO READING SERVICE

Ms Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Culture and Recreation. Is the minister aware that the radio reading service which serves the visually handicapped in the Golden Horseshoe area has only one and a half months of operating funds in the bank, and is still waiting for a decision by his ministry on its request for a modest $80,000 grant for 1981? Surely in this International Year of Disabled Persons, the minister would not see this kind of a service discontinued so that the visually handicapped would lose this valuable service?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, I am very much aware of the financial needs of the radio reading service. They are a very small organization, and they have been in operation for some three or four years now. My ministry has been making ad hoc grants to them ever since 1978-79 when they received $38,000, 1979-80 when they got a $40,000 grant, 1979-81, another $40,000, and this year they are requesting $87,000.

We will be giving them a grant but we have also encouraged them to try to seek funding elsewhere. We have been in touch with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind on the kind of service the radio reading service is providing, to see how CNIB feels about this. I would like to assure the honourable member that certainly for this year we will not let them down. We will provide them with enough financial support to complete their services for this year. We hope, along with Community and Social Services and some of the other ministries, and with the CNIB, to find a long-term solution for radio reading service.

Ms Bryden: Supplementary: We are already five months into 1981, and I think it is a crisis situation that cannot wait very much longer. Is the minister aware that the service is able to operate 17 hours a day and seven days a week only with the help of more than 100 volunteers? To ask those volunteers also to go out on fund-raising drives at this time is unreasonable for an organization of this sort. What they need is permanent funding from this government, if the visually handicapped are to be serviced, and the service extended. Will the minister comment?

3:10 p.m.

MOTION

APPLICATIONS FOR PRIVATE LEGISLATION

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that because of the interruption of the private bill legislation occasioned by the prorogation of the Fourth Session of the Thirty-First Parliament, the following applications for private legislation made during the Fourth Session of the Thirty-First Parliament be considered during the present session without giving further notice of the applications and without lodging further declarations proving publication:

1. The applications for private legislation related to Bills Pr44, Pr47 and Pr52 which received first reading in the Fourth Session of the Thirty-First Parliament;

2. The application for private legislation by the city of Windsor for which the fees were paid and the advertising was completed during the Fourth Session of the Thirty-First Parliament;

3. The application for private legislation by Stanley Stacey, Audrey Stacey and Marguerite Geddes for which the fees were paid during the fourth session of the Thirty-First Parliament and the advertising was completed in the Ontario Gazette on January 19, 1980;

That the fees paid by the applicants with respect to the said applications in the fourth session of the Thirty-First Parliament be applicable for the continuation of those applications in the present session;

That the report of Commissioners of Estate Bills received by the Clerk of the House respecting the said Bill Pr47 be deemed to be in relation to Bill Pr3 in the present session.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

STACEY'S CUSTOM UPHOLSTERY LIMITED ACT

Mr. Robinson moved first reading of Pr5, An Act to revive Stacey's Custom Upholstery Limited.

Motion agreed to.

MILDOVE MINING COMPANY LIMITED ACT

Mr. Williams moved first reading of Bill Pr1, An Act to revive Mildove Mining Company Limited.

Motion agreed to.

CITY OF TORONTO ACT

Mr. Renwick moved first reading of Bill Pr2, An Act respecting the City of Toronto.

Motion agreed to.

CITY OF WINDSOR ACT

Mr. Newman moved first reading of Bill Pr7, An Act respecting the City of Windsor.

Motion agreed to.

POLLING PLACES IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS ACT

Mr. Philip moved first reading of Bill 46, An Act respecting Polling Places in Residential Buildings.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to require that a polling place for a provincial election be provided in every residential premise in which more than 250 voters reside. The bill also requires that every landlord of residential premises in which more than 250 voters reside make the premises available for use as a polling place during a provincial election.

COUNTY OF LAMBTON ACT

Mr. Brandt moved first reading of Bill Pr6, An Act respecting the County of Lambton.

Motion agreed to.

SIOUX PETROLEUMS LIMITED ACT

Mr. Nixon, on behalf of Mr. Breithaupt, moved first reading of Bill Pr3, An Act to revive Sioux Petroleums Limited.

Motion agreed to.

REPORT

COMMISSIONERS OF ESTATE BILLS

Clerk of the House: Mr. Speaker, I have a report from the Commissioners of Estate Bills with respect to Bill Pr3.

The report from the Commissioners of Estate Bills with respect to Bill Pr47 of 1980 and now Bill Pr3 of 1981, An Act to Revive Sioux Petroleums Limited:

"The undersigned, as Commissioners of Estate Bills as provided by the Legislative Assembly Act, RSO 1970, chapter 240, have had the above-noted bill referred to us as commissioners and now beg to report thereon.

"We have investigated the desirability of the proposed legislation. We are of the opinion that the provisions of the bill are proper for carrying into effect its purpose and it is reasonable that the said bill should pass into law. We are of that opinion notwithstanding that a parcel of land in Alberta, title to which is registered in the name of the corporation, may have become escheated, under the law of Alberta, to the crown in the right of that province. We think the revival of the corporation is desirable so that it will have status to assert the title it will claim to the Alberta property.

"We enclose a copy of the bill which we have duly signed.

Yours very truly,
A. R. Jessup, JA.
Bertha Wilson, JA."

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Resumption of the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, since this is my first opportunity to speak in this session, I would like to congratulate you on your election to this high office. I trust you will continue the tradition established by the previous Speaker, the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), for treating all members equally and maintaining the impartiality and dignity of the office, which is so essential to the preservation of our democratic parliament.

3:20 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that we would begin the post-election session with a throne speech that would be a call for vigorous action on the many problems concerning the people in my riding today. Instead, we heard a recycling of election promises with few specifics and no timetable for most of the programs. Because of its many glaring omissions, it is a throne speech which in my opinion missed the target.

For those in my riding without a job there were no measures for immediate job creation. The only jobs created are positions as directors and staff of several new crown corporations and agencies. For those unable to afford the soaring house prices in my area there was no clamp on the speculative boom which is putting home ownership and home upgrading beyond the reach of most working people.

For those concerned about the environment, there was no real commitment to more vigorous action against acid rain. Inco and Hydro can still go on polluting at high levels for the next decade. The government has not changed its support of STOL at the Island Airport, even though most transportation economists say it is an incredibly wasteful way of spending our transportation dollars as well as being destructive of our waterfront recreation and housing areas.

Many of my constituents, especially those on low and fixed incomes, are upset that the speech from the throne fails to deal with price ripoffs and inflation. They feel helpless in the face of weekly price boosts in food products when supermarkets are not required to justify any increases. Other disappointments to residents of my riding were no mention of opting out and extra billing by doctors, no reference to more adequate notice and pension protection for laid-off workers and no reference to severance pay, despite what one might call "cross my heart and hope to die" promises in the last session and promises that included making it retroactive to January 1, 1981. Time is running out.

No wonder people are cynical about this government's sincerity. Its 38 years in office are strewn with the skeletons of broken promises. The greatest disappointment of all to me was the government's absolute indifferece to the needs of a majority of the population. When I say "a majority" I refer to women who now number about 51 per cent of our population. There is not a single reference in the throne speech to more than half the population of this province. There is absolutely no recognition of what we might call the facts of life about women in Ontario. Is the government not aware that women in Ontario earn only 58 per cent of the male average earnings and that the gap amounted to $7,000 a year in 1978 and is still growing?

Is the government not aware that unemployment is about twice as high for women as for men in the 25-to-44 age category? Is the government not aware that only 27 per cent of women are covered by private pension plans? Is the government not aware that two thirds of the 180,000 workers earning the minimum wage in Ontario are women? Is the government not aware that 71 per cent of part-time workers are women and they have very little protection in working conditions?

Is the government not aware that only 15 out of 21,000 apprentices who were apprenticed in the industrial trades in 1978 were women? In the next year they enrolled 1,500 more men and only four more women. Is the government not aware that two thirds of women are employed in the low-paying clerical, sales and service occupations? Is the government not awake to the microelectronic revolution which is threatening to wipe out from 30 to 40 per cent of these jobs in the next 10 years?

Where will these displaced women find alternative employment and training? A majority depend on their jobs to support themselves and their children and are not secondary wage earners as this government seems to consider them.

There is not a mention of this problem in the throne speech, nor is it mentioned in the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development pre-election manifesto, Building Ontario's Industrial Capacity in the 1980s. Women are completely ignored in the BILD industrial strategy. How can the government plan to increase productivity and develop our resources when it ignores half of Ontario's human resources?

Of course I can understand why the BILD brochure failed to mention women. It was little more than a charter of patched-up broken promises of past years. But since the government has never made any promises to work towards equality for women, there were no fractured remnants to glue together and paint over.

The government's failure to provide equal opportunity for women means the talents and potential of 50 per cent of our population are being wasted. We know that right inside the Ontario public service the potential of the women employees is not being fully utilized. Progress in moving women out of the low-

paying jobs is painfully slow. Despite the existence of a so-called affirmative action hiring program since 1973, 52 per cent of all women in the public service earn less than $13,000 per year and 73 per cent earn less than $15,000. Only four per cent of female employees have succeeded in reaching the highest-paid category of $25,000 and over. Women at the director level are only about five or six of the total of directors.

Even though the BILD proposals did not cover women specifically, they contained ominous plans for the public service to explore, and I quote, "The inclusion of unclassified employees into permanent part-time positions and the conversion of full-time positions into part-time positions." This means there will be in the Ontario public service fewer full-time and more part-time positions in the future. These are usually paid at lower rates and carry fewer benefits. It is well known that more women than men accept such positions because there are fewer full-time opportunities for them.

Token appointments of women to boards and commissions, or even to the cabinet and deputy ministerships, are not the answer to establishing economic equality. In fact they are an insult to the vast majority of Ontario's 1.8 million working women who don't have equal opportunity in either the work place or society.

What is needed to develop an equal opportunity climate in this province? A package of measures is required to remove the barriers to change, to alter attitudes, to open up skills training and nontraditional jobs to women, to guarantee equal pay for work of equal value and to provide support services to give real meaning to economic equality.

Last fall the NDP member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Charlton) introduced such a package as a private member's public bill. It was called the Women's Economic Equality Act. It was five-pronged, calling for the following measures: equal pay for work of equal value; adequate quality day care so that women have a free choice about working inside or outside the home; increased access to skills training and apprenticeship to permit entry into the nontraditional and higher paying jobs; strong affirmative action programs in both the public and private sectors through an equal employment office in the Ministry of Labour; and a ban on sexual harassment on the job.

3:30 p.m.

The Conservative members blocked a vote on this bill last fall when it was debated. They have brought in no substitute, not even a promise to bring in improvements in any of these areas, in the throne speech.

Their record on equal pay legislation is indicative of their lack of understanding of equal opportunity. Ostrich-like, they persist in arguing that the present law, which calls for equal pay for "substantially the same kind of work," is as good as the concept of equal pay for work of equal value. It is not, because it does not allow for comparison of different jobs, like comparing a switchboard operator and a parking lot attendant, even if both jobs call for substantially the same skill, effort and responsibility. So low-paying job ghettos continue.

The present law also confines the comparison to jobs in the same establishment. Often there is not a job that is substantially the same to use as a yardstick in the same establishment.

The government tried to demonstrate that its law was capable of achieving more equal pay settlements by hiring 11 additional enforcement officers last year and spending almost half a million dollars on a media campaign to encourage complaints. It is true that it got six times as many complaints, but the number of violations found was only 35 out of the 132 complaints it investigated last year.

Perhaps the small number of violations found indicates the narrowness of the law, because the investigators probably rejected many complaints, almost three quarters of them, on the grounds that the law would not substantiate or uphold them. Since none of the cases went to prosecution, we do not know if the courts would have upheld what the investigators accepted under the present restricted law.

In the 35 cases where violations were found, 236 women received $306,458 in compensation, or an average of about $1,300 each. Spot audits produced an average of about $504 each for 155 women from six violations.

The backlog of cases that were not completed in 1980-81 is alarming. Of the 238 complaints received in that fiscal year, 106 had not been completely investigated by year end. Justice delayed is justice denied.

Overall, the enforcement activity of the ministry produced an average of 21 cents a year for the 1.8 million working women in Ontario, a far cry from raising them above the present level of 58 per cent of male wages. The effort cost the government the salaries and expenses of 11 extra people and $485,000 in ads. That is $95,000 more than the total amount of compen-

sation paid. Surely it makes more sense to broaden the law and set up adequate affirmative action programs.

Another glaring instance of lack of commitment to equal opportunity for women is the government's day care program. Although its spokesmen boast that Ontario's day care expenditures are far ahead of other jurisdictions, we are far behind western Europe and far behind the need.

I find that speeches extolling the virtues of the family such as the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mrs. Birch) frequently makes, or the pious statement in the throne speech, are simply attempts to distract attention from the government's failure to adequately fund services that are vital to the preservation of the family today.

Last year, the government dragged its feet on finalizing day care budgets until many centres had to put a freeze on admissions. In Metro Toronto the government twice had to revise its allotments when by large public rallies the need was clearly shown to be unmet. But even after its final p e-election, deathbed repentance increase in the grant for Metro, there was a total of 500 new subsidized spaces provided for Metro Toronto in the face of adocumented waiting list of 4,100 spaces. Those 500 spaces were filled in the first two months of 1981.

Fifty-eight per cent of all mothers in Ontario today are working. Only 20,000 of the children of these working mothers will receive subsidized day care this year. Including nonsubsidized spaces, a total of 63,500 children will have access to supervised day care, about four per cent of the total children. For children under two, the nonavailability is staggering. Only 0.4 per cent of infants and 2.1 per cent of toddlers under two are served by child care services of a supervised form.

As a result, many parents have to resort to unsupervised day care arrangements. While some private home day care providers do an excellent job, others lack training, equipment and facilities for quality day care. The youngsters served by these informal arrangements are at risk, both physically and from a social and educational viewpoint.

Even in the supervised day care centres, facilities are limited by cutbacks in capital and repair grants. Moreover, the low level of subsidies means that professionally trained staff are paid far below other similar professionals. Despite low remuneration, their dedication to their work is remarkable, but they should not be expected to continue to subsidize an essential service to the community.

Children with special needs are also short changed by our day care system. There is very little provision for the physically and em tionally handicapped, neither is there help for shift-worker parents who need day care at unusual hours.

At its last convention in June 1980 the Ontario NDP adopted the most comprehensive day care policy offered by any party in this province. It was outlined in a motion tabled in this House last fall by the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan), our welfare critic at that time. He is still among us to continue to advocate that policy which would provide this province with an adequate level of diversified and quality day care.

Parents, children and the whole community would benefit from that policy, but the Premier (Mr. Davis) and his government do not even consider the topic important enough to mention in the throne speech or the BILD program.

I wonder when the government will start listening to its Ontario Status of Women Council. Its director, Lynne Gordon, and her council have consistently called for the sort of package of policies which I and the NDP are advocating, to establish equality of economic opportunity for women. The government is wasting its money on funding this council if it pays no attention to its advice. It is a widely representative council of people in this province. It has the expertise on the subject that the government seems to be ignoring.

3:40 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the examples I have given clearly demonstrate that this government gives a grade Z priority to women's issues. It does not even seem to recognize that women have the advantage of having been declared to be persons by the highest court in the land, which is more than can be said for the male members of the government.

Mr. Robinson: What we may lack in numbers just at the moment, I can assure you, we make up in enthusiasm.

The Deputy Speaker: We hope so.

Mr. Philip: That is just because there are more people on this side of the House than on that side of the House at the moment.

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, once again, we have always stressed the quality rather than quantity.

It is with great pride and pleasure that I join with my colleagues in offering sincere and hearty congratulations to Mr. Speaker on his appointment to what is certainly the most sensitive position in this House. In the early days of this session, both the Speaker and Deputy Speaker have been tested more than once and I am certain that they have gained the great admiration and respect of all members of this House for their fair and impartial dealings on all matters.

Without being unduly partisan, I think it is fair to say that my party now forms the government of this province for countless reasons, the best of which is the superb leadership of the Premier (Mr. Davis). On March 19, it was obvious that many people saw him as I do, and that is as the image of Ontario.

The member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy), who has recently departed, said last week that those men and women of his party who were not returned on March 19 are going to be missed very much in this Legislature.

Mr. Cassidy: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I am not departed at all; I am here. I am here in body and mind and everything else, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Robinson: Forgive me. I overlooked the honourable member, as many others have in the past.

I would suggest that while they may be missed by the member for Ottawa Centre, the people of Ontario did not share in that sentiment, otherwise I would not be here with you today.

I would like to focus my remarks today on a topic which this government has long considered a priority. As was reiterated in the throne speech, the Ontario government's commitment to public transit, through policies and financing, is a matter of record. It is a commitment which, I am confident, will be strengthened as the transit needs of our urban areas increase in the years ahead of us. Indeed, I am certain that the role of public transportation systems in urban life will undergo considerable changes in the next few years as new modes of transport, alternatives to the automobile, become increasingly relevant and vital.

For a variety of reasons, including the constraints of energy supplies and the growth of our urban centres, the need for efficient and technologically advanced transit systems will be more strongly felt. In the light of these accelerated transit demands, I am both pleased and reassured by the leadership role of the government of Ontario in the development of innovative transit technology.

It was with foresight and a vision of the future that the Urban Transportation Development Corporation was established by the government of Ontario under the leadership of this Premier in 1973. It was with a true appreciation of the value of technological innovation and the importance of public transit needs in Ontario's potential that the UTDC was given a mandate to design, develop and market new equipment and systems to improve conventional transit technology.

I commend the Premier and the government for the initiative demonstrated in 1973, and for their continued confidence and commitment over the years in the face of unwarranted attack and ridicule from many members sitting opposite. The development of expertise and specialization in high technology industries is a key element in the industrial and economic process. New technologies are a source of economic revitalization and the productive utilization of labour resources.

Canadian specialization in these areas is vital if we are to remain competitive in the modern international market. I believe that we, in Ontario, are clearly prepared to establish ourselves as leaders in the development of transit technology. I believe that Ontario has the labour resources, the sense of initiative, the local market and the export capabilities to maintain a primary position in this field. These qualities have been the basis and the driving force behind UTDC activities since its inception in 1973.

I was disappointed at the lack of faith in these very same qualities that was the driving force behind the attack by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Smith) on UTDC projects. I am disappointed not only in his cynicism but in his demonstrated simplistic appraisal of technological initiative and advanced systems.

Perhaps the most innovative of UTDC projects is the ICTS, the intermediate capacity transit system. The ICTS is designed to meet the specific needs of municipalities looking for viable alternatives to expensive subway systems.

Many larger cities require transit systems to provide a high level of service, especially during peak hours. The costs of conventional subways often prove to be far too high for feasibility, with estimates up to $100 million per mile for installation. On the streets, buses and streetcars may be cheaper but can carry fewer passengers since they must contend with other surface traffic. As a system with substantially lower capital and

operating costs that can handle up to 25,000 passengers per hour, the ICTS offers an attractive and affordable option for these municipalities.

The ICTS project began in 1975 under an initial $5.8 million contract with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. With an agreement in 1976, UTDC proceeded with the development of a prototype ICTS. By 1978, test vehicles were on the track at the transit development centre to begin operating tests.

Ontario proposed to install an ICTS in Hamilton-Wentworth to connect the downtown area with a major residential district on Hamilton Mountain to demonstrate this new technology. Unfortunately, implementation of the prototype rapid transit system has been postponed as a result of the federal government's delay in reaching a decision with respect to shared funding of the project. Despite this indecision and reassurance of the Ontario government's commitment to the project, funding for the demonstration system was given a high priority among the recent BILD initiatives.

The Ontario government has recognized that the development of transit technology today will have a tremendous impact on future society, not only in terms of a healthy and productive material initiative but also as people turn to public transit to meet their transport needs. Efficient municipal transportation is increasingly becoming a high priority in the eyes of local government as well as those of commuters and other transit users. I state this today as an experienced urban politician and as a person well aware of the benefits of quality transit systems.

Users of public transit are highly appreciative of efficient service and quality equipment. In this context, the advantages to the public of an ICTS are both numerous and noteworthy. As a result of innovative design improvements and technological features, the ICTS produces little visual intrusion and minimal noise. Both these factors are important in the application of the system in residential areas. Low interior noise and a smooth ride for the passenger are produced by the suspension and propulsion technology.

The point I would like to make is that the efforts of the UDTC have resulted in a transit facility which emphasizes aspects of technology both for the passengers and for those residential neighbourhoods that are affected by the system. From the point of view of safety, I am equally impressed by the technology of the linear induction motor, which ensures more reliable acceleration and braking, and the commuter train control, which detects and responds to vehicle and equipment problems very early. I was reassured, as were other supporters of the system, to learn that the transportation experts who assessed the performance of ICTS were satisfied and impressed in terms of both design and safety.

The achievements of the system from the point of view of technical operation in evaluations done by many North American transit officials should not be underestimated. I consider the selection of ICTS to serve the greater Vancouver area at an estimated $650 million project cost a vote of confidence in Canadian urban transit capability. The endorsement of the system by the British Columbia Urban Transit Authority is a decisive step by the BC government towards solving Vancouver's transportation problems, as well as a commitment to a proven and reliable safe system.

I recall the enthusiasm with which the Vancouver decision was met by many members of our previous Legislative Assembly. At the same time, however, I recall the lack of even a grudging acknowledgement from either the leader of the Liberal Party or his transportation critic at the success of the UDTC project in Vancouver.

The events of the Vancouver sale have proven both Liberal representatives wrong in their appraisal of this industrial initiative. It is worthy of note that their federal colleagues in Ottawa are the most recent converts to the overwhelming benefits of UTDC, and they have now put $60 million into the Vancouver project. In that light I would have hoped that the Ontario Liberal leader would have acknowledged the mistakes of his harsh criticism and directed praise where such praise is warranted.

3:50 p.m.

The government's commitment in this area and the initiative of those people involved in the development of the intermediate capacity transit system are worthy of the praise of all members of this House and the citizens of Ontario.

The Vancouver authorities were not the only officials to present a positive evaluation of the ICTS system. In Los Angeles, UTDC's proposals were judged to be first among competing technologies in terms of technical performance, including safety features, reliability and maintenance factors.

In addition, in terms of both intermediate

costs and life cycle costs, UTDC stood out first in financial feasibility. As many members are aware, UTDC was recommended by the Los Angeles downtown people mover transit project as a supplier of the technology for the transit system. This recommendation came about following a comprehensive evaluation of ICTS earlier in the year by the United States Urban Mass Transportation Administration.

After a 30-day assessment of the UTDC system at the test and demonstration centre near Kingston, the administration was assured that all of the performance capabilities and environmental requirements of their transit program were satisfied by the ICTS technology.

There have, of course, been suggestions recently that the Los Angeles project may be delayed if certain elements of President Reagan's budget are or are not approved in the United States. UTDC, though, has been voted the contract and any delay has no bearing on the technological competence or in that city's ongoing confidence in the ICTS system.

The United States market is not going to go away. The pressures of ever-diminishing energy reserves and availability will force major cities into sophisticated mass transit systems in the next few years, thereby opening up an even greater market for UTDC's skills and sciences.

International appraisals, such as that done by the United States Mass Transportation Administration, are vital to the future success of the system and entry into the worldwide transit technology market. It is with the continued support of the government of Ontario and the UTDC that the potential of our superior technology and the development of an innovative transit industry in Ontario can be realized.

Transit technology is being integrated into our provincial industrial fabric as this government takes the essential steps to guarantee the sophisticated activities of UTDC. Guarantees and support by this government have taken various forms.

Ontario has undertaken the responsibility of posting performance bonds, a key to the successful marketing of projects of this magnitude. Furthermore, to assist the UTDC to meet delivery requirements, the Ontario government is providing financing for ITCS production through the purchase of additional UTDC capital stock.

In another form of support, the Ontario government has sought, in co-operation with other levels of government, new locations for the development of an ICTS line. I have already mentioned the Hamilton-Wentworth project. It depends on the participation of other levels of government for a demonstration system.

Recently, the Ontario government announced a new ICTS line for Toronto's waterfront. The system will not only enhance the environment of the waterfront, but will improve accessibility to the recreational attractions which line the stretch of land from Union Station to the Canadian National Exhibition and Ontario Place.

These improvements will undoubtedly promote the tourist facilities of the city of Toronto, as well as augment the considerable pride already felt by all Metro residents in this vital urban centre.

Scarborough-Ellesmere has the distinction in Ontario of becoming the model for a new light rail technology in Ontario. My riding boasts the Scarborough Town Centre, which is now in the early development stages and is well on its way to becoming a distinctive town centre core for a city of more than 430,000 people.

At this time, it is proposed that a light rail transit system join the easterly end of the subway system, near Kennedy Road and Eglinton Avenue, with the Scarborough Town Centre and in the future go beyond that into the Malvern community. As under development now, the line would use modified versions of the Toronto Transit Commission's new streetcars now in extensive service in the Toronto core.

As plans are drawn for the LRT line, two or three situations are left to be considered. First is the major cost of grade separations, as the LRT line crosses many major arterial roads between the subway and the town centre. Second is the intrusion, both from a visual and an audio standpoint, that the vehicles will have passing along the rear yards of the Treverton Park community.

I urge both this government, as a major funding partner, and the TTC to maintain its pledge of full sight and sound barriers for the protection of this community if the current light rail transit system is to be installed. But even at this stage of the development I would also urge both representatives of my government and Metropolitan Toronto to give serious examination to the use of Urban Transit Development Corporation's intermediate capacity transit system mode in this corridor. At this stage of LRT development I believe ICTS could be successfully substituted, effectively curing both the extensive problems of noise intrusion and grade separation—including Midland Avenue for separation—without further major expense or delay.

An intermediate capacity transit system in Metropolitan Toronto, in addition to providing the finest in transit technology, also serves as a showcase for the province both in the national and the international marketplace.

In Scarborough-Ellesmere, community comes first. I urge all with legislative responsibility in my riding not to put unabashed fervour to town centre development ahead of the comfortable and hard-earned family lifestyle of all those living in the vicinity both of the town centre and of the rapid transit line.

To me there seems little point in creating a glorious downtown at the sacrifice of stable community life when the objectives of both, I truly believe, could be accomplished by both the people and the people who represent them working hand in hand.

The leadership role taken by the province is an essential ingredient in the development of the transit industry in this country. I am hopeful the federal government would contribute more significantly to the efforts of the UTDC in this industrial opportunity. With these positive indications of success in transit technology, there is the opportunity to firmly establish a solid reputation for Ontario and Canadian expertise in an internationally competitive field.

With the Vancouver deal there is potential expansion of an industry in Canada which will promote skilled employment opportunities from coast to coast and attract manufacturing investment. The 22.4-kilometre line and the automatic trains will be ready for use in 1986 in Vancouver, the year in which that city will celebrate an international transit exposition. Transpo '86 will be a tremendous opportunity to display our technology to a worldwide market. In this sense, UTDC is developing a national enterprise and should therefore reflect the contribution of our national government.

In addition to the international promotion opportunity afforded by the Vancouver system, Ontario has entered into agreements during the past several years with various foreign transport firms. These contracts have involved both the ICTS technology and other services and products of UTDC.

For example, the corporation was awarded a contract to provide specialized technical services in terms of assessment and recommendations to help improve public transportation systems in the state of Sao Paulo, Brazil. In January 1980 UTDC was asked by the California Department of Transportation to negotiate a contract to provide expertise by establishing equipment standards, operating practices and maintenance systems for computer rail services in two local counties. These agreements represent achievements in the area of advisory services by UTDC in co-operation with leading urban transportation specialists.

Most recently these achievements were augmented by the award of the seventh in a series of contracts to provide transit advisory services to the San Francisco municipal railway.

I will not elaborate at this time on the details of these awards, or on the sophisticated role played by UTDC in the area of advisory services. However, I do hope I have made clear to members of this Legislature the great extent of UTDC activities, and the international reputation gained by the corporation as experts in an advisory capacity.

The export potential of UTDC technology and services has been realized to some extent by these contracts. Agreements with leading firms in Japan and Britain regarding marketing services and marketing rights for the sale and installation of Canadian technology in these countries have provided major opportunities for the export of these Canadian systems. A solid reputation in the international arena will mean access to major markets. These international contracts thus far have laid a very sure and firm groundwork for a flourishing exportability.

Coupled with these contracts are the positive evaluations of the system by international experts, which I mentioned earlier. Together, these factors suggest technological level and price of Urban Transportation Development Corporation systems are excellent indications of a competitive stance in the urban transit market. I am sure that members of this House are well aware of the economic implications and the impact on labour resources which will result from successful penetration of the worldwide market.

4 p.m.

I referred earlier to the importance of new technologies and research and development programs in today's industrial society. I am convinced that much of our future prosperity, economic progress and job opportunities depend on the initiatives in the high technology field. This important point formed the thrust of the BILD program announced earlier this year, highlights of which form the substance of the throne speech presented to this House some two weeks ago.

Utilizing our labour resources and meeting

the job potential of our industrial economy is a central theme of the BILD program. It is a theme which played a major role in the decision to establish UTDC some eight years ago and in the expansion and diversification of UTDC's activities since its inception. Research and development experts have been a vital component of UTDC's programs. As designers and developers of technology, UTDC has provided skilled employment opportunities for our provincial economic setting.

Furthermore, a great number of subcontractors involved in fabrication of equipment, vehicles and guideways have been Canadian companies based in a variety of Canadian centres. It is clear that job possibilities in the area of design, construction and assembly and development of electronic components will all be stimulated across the province and across our country with the continued and growing success of UTDC initiatives.

For example, in the case of the Vancouver project, the construction of elevated guideways, stations and sidings will be done by local contractors in those municipalities involved. It is estimated that the construction aspect of the project will account for about half of the system's cost and for instance, is expected to keep two new concrete mixing plants in full production for four years.

I think that this example speaks for itself. UTDC's success will revitalize existing companies as well as stimulate the potential market for high technology skills and research and development initiatives.

As Canadians, we are well aware of the importance of an efficient transit infrastructure. As a key element in the productive economic system, the smooth movement of people and goods across long and short distances has long been recognized as a priority of the management of our infrastructure.

I am confident of the leading role taken by the government of Ontario in ensuring that the public transit component of that priority is well looked after. Municipal transit systems have been able to depend on a high level of subsidy and support services from the provincial government in their provision of quality transit services.

More recently, with specific reference to another transportation sector, we have been presented with an impressive final report of the task force on provincial rail policy. The report contains many valuable recommendations which focus on the provincial responsibilities and rail services in Ontario.

I repeat now that the commitment of the government of Ontario to transportation priorities is a matter of record and the continued support, patience and confidence in the activities of the Urban Transportation Development Corporation by the government members of this House have enhanced that record of achievement. In a period of rising energy prices and increased conservation efforts, viable transit alternatives are a necessity. People are being forced or are choosing to leave their cars at home in many instances and consider the alternatives for the first time.

In many North American urban centres, the problems associated with public transportation systems are numerous and multifaceted. In many instances, high costs, fragmented existing systems and equipment deterioration are among the very real problems facing these large municipalities. The UTDC has demonstrated a high level of expertise in aiding these cities with their transit difficulties, whether it be in the area of advisory services, the provision of equipment or as in the case in recent months in the negotiation for the application of an innovative technology such as an intermediate capacity transit system.

It was with a vision of the future and a sense of responsibility in transit issues that the government of Ontario established and sustained UTDC. It is with the same vision and confidence that UTDC's activities will continue to have the support of this government in the future. The reasons are clear. The application of new technologies and particularly the development of public transit alternatives is essential in order that we maintain a competitive stance in the dynamic international economy. The job opportunities for the people of Ontario and Canada, the advantages of a solid reputation of expertise in the field, the benefits of improved access to export markets are motivating factors for the entry of UTDC and technological innovations.

We commend the Lieutentant Governor for his most meaningful throne speech. It is a fitting starting point for what I am sure will be a long and industrious career on behalf of Her Majesty here in Ontario. As I complete my first address to this assembly, I offer my pledge to this province and to my constituents to work hard and diligently for the betterment of all.

Mr. McKessock: First I want to congratulate the Acting Speaker, who is in the chair at present, and also the new Speaker, who is in the chair most of the time. The position of Speaker seems always to be filled by a nice guy and this time is no exception.

I suppose the image of a nice guy as Speaker is partly because of the entertaining he has to do in connection with visitors to the Legislature. Of course, the Premier (Mr. Davis) certainly wants someone who will be a good example.

It is a difficult position to fill because, to keep order in this place, it would be much easier for someone other than a nice guy at times. I am pleased to be sitting fairly close to the Speaker, but I have been trying to get a supplementary question in for some time and I am sorry I am sitting next to his bad eye.

I want to say a word of welcome to the 28 new members of the Legislature, although I would like to have more on this side. It would have made it easier for me to get to know them. I now know the six new members on our side, but I look forward to meeting and working with all new members on that side as time goes on.

I have a deep interest in agriculture, being a farmer myself and knowing the great contribution agriculture makes to our overall economy. Agriculture not only provides jobs for farmers, but there is a good spinoff of jobs in the food industry through processing, wholesaling, retailing, machinery companies, fertilizers, et cetera. One out of five works in the food business. It has been said, "Burn down the cities and leave the farms and the cities will spring up again as if by magic, but destroy the farms and the grass will grow on the streets of every city in the province."

It is for these reasons that, in this throne speech debate, I want to bring to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Henderson) the severe problem that exists with Ontario farmers in the beef and hog industry. Evidently he is not totally aware of the magnitude of the problem or he would have taken steps to correct it before now, the same as other provinces have.

How can the Minister of Agriculture and Food say, as he did in question period the other day, that Ontario is taking its place with other provinces in Canada when Quebec is giving loans of $250,000 to their farmers, the first $15,000 at two and one half per cent and the remainder at eight per cent interest?

Two things have caused the present problem. One is the high interest rate on borrowed money and the other is the low prices for finished beef and hogs. The problem is that farmers are going out of business and we are losing our beef and hog industry to other provinces.

Farmers are caught in a trap. They have had to borrow money to fill their feedlots with cattle and it is now costing them 19 to 20 per cent interest. What is even worse, money they borrowed last summer at a low interest rate is now costing them much more. I know because I borrowed money last summer at 13 per cent interest to buy cattle. That same loan for the same cattle today cost me 19 per cent, three quarters over prime. Tomorrow or Thursday, who knows, it could be much more. Depending on what happens to the interest rates from now on, things could be getting much worse.

4:10 p.m.

So a farmer or a small businessman has no control over the fluctuating interest rates. When projections and cash flows were made at 13 per cent last summer, how could a businessman be expected to project a jump of six per cent in the interest rates in a six-month period?

The minister says he lays this problem at the feet of the federal government. I expect all provinces do and I do not blame anyone for that. What I do blame him for is not taking interim action on behalf of his farmers in Ontario, the same as other ministers of agriculture in other provinces have for their farmers and for agriculture in their provinces.

The beef and hog farmers in Ontario are losing money fast and are coming to me each week with their situations, bank foreclosures, bankruptcies, or decisions to sell and maintain as much of their equity as possible before it is all eaten up in losses.

One young farmer who came to me has had the bank and the farm credit corporation both ask him to sell. When he sells everything he will be $30,000 in the hole and he does not want to go bankrupt because he does not want to have that against his name. He is going to spend many more years of his life paying off a $30,000 debt after everything is gone.

Others are watching their equity diminish and have either sold or will be selling to save as much equity as possible, if assistance is not forthcoming immediately to turn this thing around to at least a breakeven position. So for everyone who goes bankrupt there are nine others who are going broke quietly or who are selling to save further losses.

The minister may say it is not just Ontario; he is right. These high interest rates and low prices go right across Canada and the US, but the difference is the other provinces are giving their farmers assistance to ride out these tough times. Other provinces are giving interest rebates of $10,000 per farmer.

Quebec is guaranteeing the farmers 90 cents a

pound for finished beef and the minister said in question period today he disagreed with me, it was 96 cents; that is much better. But one can see the problem we have in competing with Quebec when they are guaranteeing their farmers 90 cents or 96 cents for finished beef and then supplying them with eight per cent money to buy their feeder cattle.

What is happening? As Ontario farmers go out of business the other provinces are picking up the slack. We are losing our beef and hog industry because this government is not acting.

It happened a few years ago in the milk industry. Quebec assisted the dairy farmers and production left Ontario for Quebec and we never could get it back.

Feeder cattle that should be coming into Ontario now from the west are going to Quebec. Before the year is over, we in Ontario will be eating Quebec finished beef.

I do not agree with subsidies of any kind as long as nobody is getting them, but if the other provinces are going to take Ontario's agricultural production by subsidizing their farmers, then I see no alternative for Ontario but to subsidize their farmers to hold Ontario's production. If we do not, Ontario's loss will be the other provinces' gain.

The good farmers we are losing in Ontario we will never get back. The young farmers who are getting such a bad experience will not venture into agriculture again. First, because it would be too costly to start again and, second, the risks are too great when you see what can happen when some provinces help their farmers and others do not. If everyone were treated the same, most farmers would accept their knocks.

Then there is the farmer who owns his farm who is watching his equity diminish. He is selling to save what he has, so he will not be back either. He is going to retire while he still has something left to retire on. The first foreign buyer with a pocketful of money is going to get his farm.

Therefore, when the minister is coming up with assistance for these farmers it should be for all farmers. The equity position should not matter because, as I pointed out, if he does not help the farmer who owns his farm as well, he is also going to sell to save what he has left. If he does not want him to sell to foreign buyers, he should not bring in policies that discriminate against the farmer who has his farm paid for.

I suggest the minister bring in the recommendations of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, passed at its directors' meeting on April 22. Drop the equity part of the present program and pay the same for everyone. I suggest that interest rebate payments should be made on all interest above 12 per cent on loans up to $250,000, and that tomorrow will not be too soon to announce it. It should also be retroactive to January 1 of this year, and the first quarterly payment should be due right now.

A year ago, on April 10, 1980, when I introduced a resolution pertaining to Ontario agriculture into this House and it was debated by all parties, I said at that time, "Ontario farmers will be dropping out like flies if we do not take action, as other provinces have." It is now happening.

Take a look at bankruptcies, up 75 per cent in Ontario this year. Take a look at farm sales. Is the minister going to let this continue? Is he still thinking that $1,600 in interest rebates will solve the problem? It is like giving a sick cow 1 cc of penicillin when 30 cc are needed.

Surely if the minister is not concerned about Ontario farmers and Ontario agriculture he must have some concern for the people who like to eat in this province. We should keep Ontario agriculture strong, strong enough so that we will always be able to feed ourselves. Are we going to let the US and other provinces supply our needs? Do not forget, Mr. Speaker, if food gets scarce they will always feed themselves first. Let us not ever let Ontario be second when it comes to food production. Let us keep our agricultural industry strong. Let us give them a hand when they need it and they will give us food forever.

The farmers of Ontario are calling on the minister for action. They have been for some time, and a few weeks ago it appeared they were giving up and were calling on him for something else. But the minister can change this around and they will forgive him if he acts fast. I urge the minister to take immediate steps to give Ontario farmers the same competitive opportunity that other provinces are giving their farmers—no more, no less.

Another area that is of great concern to me is the disappearance of choice farm land. This should be of great concern to urban and rural people alike. We only have about 10 per cent of our land in Ontario that is suitable for farming. With our growing population and our diminishing farm land it is just a matter of time before we cannot feed ourselves. Then imports, instead of competing for our markets, will be a necessity.

Toronto uses more prime farm land than any city in Canada. I feel Toronto is big enough and it has used enough food land. Surely it would be

better to be growing a compatible crop on that land now surrounding Toronto and other large cities.

It would also be better for health. It would improve the air we breathe. Crops help purify air in several ways. Most important is the process of absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen. During the growing season an average acre of corn draws about eight tons of carbon dioxide into its tissues. Meanwhile it releases enough oxygen to supply 12 persons with fresh air for a whole year. In another cleaning process fine hairs on plant leaves catch loose particles of dirt in the air and hold them until rain washes the particles into the soil.

We have lots of land suitable for development that is not suitable for farming. It only makes sense that we stop developing farm land and keep it for food land. Some day our children or our children's children will wonder who allowed our choice farm land to be covered over with industry, houses and cement. On the other hand, we have a few farms in our area that are so stony that I wonder why the bush ever was taken off. These farms would be ideal for industry and development.

I have talked about the business of agriculture and disappearing farm land. I want to put a word in now for all small business. Ninety-seven per cent of all Ontario business is small. Forty per cent of Ontario's work force works in small business, but 80 per cent of all new jobs created in the last five years have been in the area of small business. Only six per cent of small business is foreign-owned; only six per cent of large business is Canadian-owned. It is easy to see that agriculture and small business are the backbone of our economy.

4:20 p.m.

I would like to see steps taken to ensure that this remains the case. I would like simplified programs tossist small industry, both in manufacturing and in the so-called service industry. The ARDA program we used to have in our area was a good program. You knew where you stood with it. If you created one job you got a $5,000 grant towards capital costs. If you created two jobs, you got $10,000 and so on. Under the programs the Ministry of Industry and Tourism has brought out lately it takes you too long to find out whether you are getting nothing.

We need an Industry and Tourism office in our area that also handles Ontario Development Corporation loans. Grey riding is covered by the London ODC office, which is ridiculous. We are closer to either Kitchener, Barrie or Toronto. We should have an office in the town of Durham to cover that area. Local offices should have authority to handle loans up to $100,000. This would mean ODC would be of some value to small business in our area, an area that should be getting a bigger share of industrial expansion, for expansion could take place on rough land rather than choice farm land.

The Niagara Escarpment issue is still with us, as those of us who live on the escarpment know only too well. Even though it has been eight years since the Niagara Escarpment Development and Control Act was passed in this Legislature, and long and tedious hearings on the proposed plan are still going on, the effects of this act are still a millstone around the necks of the property owners. Often, when things get into such bad shape and a lot of controversy has taken place in an area, the government will change ministers in a certain portfolio and then ease out of the predicament. I hope this is what is happening here with the change of ministers in the Provincial Secretariat for Resources Development.

I wish the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Ramsay) well in his new duties. He has indicated to me he is going to have a meeting of all the MPPs whose area has within it some of the Niagara Escarpment. I congratulate the member for this action, if he takes it, and I look forward to those meetings. I hope he will be able to make the necessary changes now to correct an infringement on property rights in Ontario, brought on by the Niagara Escarpment Development and Control Act, 1973.

According to the act, when the hearings are completed on the proposed plan, the hearing officer shall report to the Niagara Escarpment Commission stating whether the plan should be accepted, rejected or modified. I hope he will reject it. He will also furnish the minister with his report. The Niagara Escarpment Commission will look at the report and shall then submit the proposed plan, with its recommendations, to the minister. Then, if there is still a plan left, the minister has final say as to whether to accept, reject or modify it.

When this act was passed in 1973, and when it was being contemplated 10 years prior to that, planning was not very far advanced in Ontario, and something like the Niagara Escarpment Act seemed necessary. It is a different story today. Ten years ago Grey county had no planners. Today, we have nine full-time planners. Our own official plans and zoning bylaws now quite adequately protect the land and the Niagara Escarpment.

The fact is, it took more than 10 years to try to get a plan to protect the Niagara Escarpment; it still is not ready, and now it is not needed. In the meantime, municipal planning surged ahead and has taken over. The Niagara Escarpment plan can now be rejected for these reasons and we can save the $2 million a year it is costing us.

As members have noticed, my main concern and interest is in agriculture and small business. But my leader has also added sports and recreation to my plate. I have always been a strong supporter of all sports and recreation. I have spent 20 years playing ball and realize the advantages of team sports, not only for exercise but to help develop our minds as well as our bodies. While participating in team sports one learns the advantage of co-operating with one's fellow man. The personal satisfaction and the thrill of competition are not only brought out in team sports, but also in sports such as skiing and golfing, which tend to be individual sports.

In my area, skiing is not just a sport, it is big business. I have Blue Mountain Resorts, Georgian Peaks, Talisman, Old Smokey, Beaver Valley Ski Club and many other private clubs in my riding. Many people in the area find full-time and part-time jobs in the ski business. In the summertime, the ski lifts and hills at Blue Mountain are used for the great slide rides. A new feature at Blue Mountain last year was the "slipper-dipper" ride.

Mr. Barlow: What is that? Say that again.

Mr. Ruston: Do you dip or slip? Which one do you do first?

Mr. McKessock: The slipper-dipper ride. Bring your bathing suit up and give it a try this summer.

Mr. McLean: Where is that?

Mr. McKessock: That is in Blue Mountain, quite close to Simcoe, but it is in Grey riding.

Sports and recreation in our area fit right in with industry and tourism and, of course, we farmers are pleased to supply the foods for those increased appetites as people come off the ski hills.

I look forward to working with individuals and people on sports and recreation committees and associations, and the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation, to help develop in Ontario the best possible facilities and opportunities for sports and recreation. I feel individual satisfaction and enjoyment is most important when it comes to sports and recreation, but I would also like to see Ontario keep up front when it comes to Canadian and Olympic competition.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have had this opportunity to present some of my concerns and the concerns of Grey riding, and I look forward to this session and the estimates debates to follow, which will give us the opportunity to deal with specific areas in more detail.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to join in the debate. I would like to remark on the absolute dedication, the sterling nature of all those present who, on an incredibly sunny day like today, are actually sitting here in the Legislature with the curtains drawn. I do not understand why we cannot have at least some light being shed upon us from outside if there is none going to be shed by those of us who stand to speak on the speech from the throne. I would hope that in the future, on lovely days like this, we might have the curtains open.

Through the Acting Speaker to the Speaker, I would like to congratulate him on his appointment as Speaker, and you on your appointment as well. Mr. Speaker and I are both from the Peterborough area, from the land of the shining waters. I welcome him. With him in the chair, and with me on this side standing, I think we add a great deal of class to the proceedings in general. I think the Acting Speaker should pass that on.

It is with great affection that I recall the previous Speaker, whom I have known for many years, and with whom, from time to time, I have had a number of run-ins; one notably to do with the support of motherhood, when he was offended, which may surprise you. We had a disagreement. He of course was right, as always, and I lost. It is interesting that I have not as yet been in conflict with the chair. Mind you, this is only the second or the third time I have been on my feet, so there is probably more to come in the future.

I would like to draw to your attention, and to that of Mr. Speaker, if I might, the difficulty with the naming of names instead of ridings. As a Mr. Johnston—one of two, although I am a Mr. Johnston with emphasis on the "stun," some would say—I find my name is often slurred and the Mr. Johnson from another riding is often mixed up with me in Hansard and in terms of direction from the chair. Notably, on opening day my name was misspelled in the list of members and in the legislative reports from last session my name was also misspelled.

I think there is some problem, some danger in just referring to me as "Mr. Johnston," and if I am referred to as "Mr. Johnston, Scarborough West" I do not see why that same sort of

recognition should not be given to the other members of the assembly in that they be called by their riding names.

Monsieur l'orateur, je voudrais vous remercier, comme chef de l'administration de la législature, de l'occasion qui est offerte, aux députés qui le désirent, d'apprendre le français.

Depuis août 1979, je profite des cours donnés par les "Services de langue française," en prenant des leçons dans mon bureau, une ou deux fois par semaine.

En m'écoutant parler certains peuvent sans doute se poser de questions sur les résultats . . . Mais considérant que mes possibilités de m'exprimer en français étaient à peu près nulles au départ, comme pour la plupart des finissants des écoles secondaires de ma génération, le résultat n'est pas si mauvais.

C'est certainement à cause de ces leçons que j'ai pu suivre entièrement le premier discours de M. Boudria, l'autre soir. J'étais malheureusement un des rares à pouvoir comprendre la partie française de son discours, étant donné l'absence totale d'un système de traduction dans la chambre. Malgré la liberté qu'ont les députés de s'exprimer dans la langue officielle de leur choix, qui peut se permettre de vraiment jouir de cette liberté en choisissant le français, sachant très bien que presque personne ne pourrait le comprendre.

4:30 p.m.

What I just said, for those who don't understand French or don't understand my accent, is that we have the right in this House to speak in French, but when the language is being spoken most people do not have one iota of understanding of what is being said. That was the case with Mr. Boudria's maiden speech the other night. There were probably four people in this chamber who knew what he was talking about, and what he was talking about was very important. The reason people cannot understand it is because we have no instant translation in this chamber.

That points up the problem this Conservative government has not spoken to either in the last election or before in the constitutional debate, and that is the employment of section 133 and that which it implies to this Legislature. It is something that is not shoving French down the throats of people around the province but is instead giving reality to the right of someone to speak in French in this House and be understood. Why should Mr. Boudria get up again and speak in French when he knows no one is going to understand him and no one is going to read Hansard the next day to see what he said and then get somebody to translate it for them. This place should be equipped with translation devices.

Mr. Havrot: We can't afford it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: We can't afford it. Note that the member for Timiskaming said we cannot afford it.

Mr. Havrot: The member picked up on that instantaneously.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I did pick it up instantaneously. Now that we don't have a garbage track to pick up most of the member's comments, I am glad I picked that up.

I note the lack of connection between the statement in the throne speech about our role as Ontarians and the government of Ontario in terms of the national debate, and the role we played in leadership in that area, and the fact that this government has been unable to take the one step that would have been very important in terms of leadership for the nation—not for the province and certainly not for parochial concerns, but for the nation—and that was in terms of recognition of our minority language rights and employing them in this House.

I won't repeat my comments from the last parliament. I spent approximately half an hour attacking the government before we went to election on that issue. It is hard to understand how it would have hurt to have employed that. There may be some cost, yes, but a small cost in terms of what it might have done for our country and God knows what it might have done to help.

I can only look at the abandonment of the select committee, which started way behind schedule because this government would not recognize the need for us as legislators to be actively involved in the national debate, and is a further indication that it has no view of our importance as legislators in terms of the continuing debate on what happens with the constitution.

No matter what the Supreme Court decides in the next week or two about this particular package, there is much more that needs to be done in terms of constitutional reform. This Legislature, not just the executive, should be involved in that discussion.

What we learned as members of that committee travelling across the country was that it is vital that the debate be broadened, that it be taken away from just the national Parliament and just the Premiers around the country and be broadened to include as many Canadians as possible, so that they understand what that

debate is about and understand the choices that are there to be made for the future of the country.

It is time for this government to act, in terms of re-establishing our traditional ties with Quebec. I realize that may be some kind of anathema to the present government in view of the fact that the Parti Québecois is in power in Quebec, and that its long-term goal of sovereignty association may be seen to be a major block in that area. But one of the problems that we have is that the natural axis, that natural alliance between Ontario and Quebec, in terms of the provincial and federal debate has fallen apart.

We need to re-establish that connection. This government should take a lead in doing that and it should allow a committee of this Legislature also to take the lead in so doing. I think it is particularly appropriate that today was the day that the Alberta committee was here. We did not have a select committee that could still talk to it. A number of us went because we were invited, because we knew what the subject was about.

This House no longer is involved in that debate. This House has been excluded from discussion on terms of the future of our country, and I think that is a terrible mistake and a terrible omission in direction in this throne speech.

The thing about the throne speech, when you look at it, is primarily omissions. What we see in it is a repetition of matters that have been brought before us earlier. It is essentially boring. It essentially reflects the strategy of the Conservative government moving into the last election. It reflects, in fact, what was the mistake of the opposition over the last number of years, in terms of not making issues exciting in Ontario.

All one has to do is look at the turnout. The Premier (Mr. Davis) should be considering himself the Premier of Boredom, the Emperor of Ennui. We now, in our province, get out only 50-odd per cent of the vote for a provincial election in what is supposed to be a major democracy. Why? Because we have lulled them to sleep—I think we in the opposition from lack of dynamic action perhaps, and because we took minority government seriously, but the government because of a systematic plan to do just that, to bore the electorate to death and then get out that basic Tory vote and win the election with as little as possible.

Look at the difference between Quebec and Ontario. Quebec had an 86 per cent turnout. No matter what one thinks of the platform of the Parti Québecois, they won with 51 per cent of an 86 per cent turnout. In Ontario, the Conservative government is re-elected with a massive majority, reflecting 25 per cent of the eligible voters in this province. That is something of which we should all be ashamed.

I go back to why I think we got lulled into it: because we tried to make minority government work. I know the Liberals will yell at us about the number of times we supported the Tories on no-confidence motions, and we will yell back about the number of times they supported the government, and how we all missed the point.

What we tried to do was have a constitution committee that would come up with a consensus, have a Hydro select committee that would come through with good legislative suggestions, a plant shutdowns committee that would try to come together with some kind of a consensus and come up with some sort of legislation, a justice committee that would actually get down to and look at what was going on with Re-Mor. That was a major mistake on our part over here, because we got lulled into trying to be the executive of this place and as a result got caught up in defusing issues.

One of the wonderful things that is going to come up over the next few years is that this will not be happening. The Tories have their majority, they have their ability to sit over there smugly, get rid of good committees, stop the Legislature from being an effective organ. They have that ability, and what they are going to have over here is a lot of people who will be drawing very distinct lines between us and them.

By the time we get to the next election, they will not be able to buy off the electorate with a few dollars to a hospital in my riding that needed the money two years ago and not during the election, and to a hospital in David Warner's riding that needed the money two years before and not during the election. That will not work next time because the lines will be clearly drawn.

The first part of this speech is on economic development, so-called, and industrial strategy, so-called. What it really reflects is the fact that this government has no coherent philosophy on what it wants to do in terms of economic management.

If we look at the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development proposals for the economy of Ontario, there are some which could be

said to be based on an economic nationalist philosophy. Let's look at the procurement policy as an example: buy Canadian first, do not buy foreign first, to try to use the public purchasing power of Ontario to maintain jobs for Ontario. That could be seen as a pronationalist approach. There are no guts to that proposal.

4:40 p.m.

There is no mandatory involvement by public agencies in purchasing to make sure that $7 billion we use in public purchasing in this province is actually spent on Canadian goods primarily. We are going to get the 21 Toyota situation in the city of Toronto with the police buying Toyotas instead of buying North American-built cars for the future because there is nothing mandatory in it. But the thrust and philosophy behind the procurement policy is surely one of economic nationalism.

Then we have the idea of crown corporations. In fact, the number of crown corporations that were suggested was lifted directly out of the speeches on the budget by the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren). They took out the parts they thought were useful. But there is no coherent plan there to stop foreign takeovers. There is no coherent thought behind it as to why they want to do this.

Why do we think it is good to control our own resources? Is it the stock foreign takeover question? Is it just an ad hoc, buying-off of votes because they knew the polls said that government involvement in the private sector was acceptable? That is not acceptable to a number of members over there, I am sure, but the polls of their election planning people showed that. That is why they went that way. It was not because they believed in it but because they knew it would work and it would diffuse the thrust and philosophy we espouse on this side.

One of the fundamental reasons we say what we say in terms of industrial strategy is that we cannot plan in relation to what we do not control. We believe in a coherent plan of action by government in order to control and to own that which we need to control in order to maintain and guarantee jobs. These measures the government comes up with over there are not goal-related.

There is no relationship; there is no full employment goal; there are no targets for sectoral control, as suggested by the member for Nickel Belt; there is no specific goal for a percentage of greater Canadianization; there are no targets for improving the lot of women in the work force, or involving the handicapped specifically in the work force; there is no specific plan to have mandatory apprenticeship. There are no goals; it is just ad hockery. This government has won through ad hockery, and it is a major failing.

I would like to deal with the area of social services, which is my responsibility now. The most important minor statement in this whole throne speech talks about the problems that are going to be coming up soon with transfer payments between the federal government and the provincial government in a number of areas. One of those areas is that of social services. The word is out that the federal government is planning to cut back by millions of dollars the amount of money it shares for social service programming to the provinces across the country as part of the financial responsibility it is trying to emulate these days.

What they are doing to us now, and to the government, is essentially what the government has been doing to the municipalities for the last five years. The challenge the government has is to maintain services, to increase services even when that political act is perpetrated on us, and not to use it as an excuse. But I predict they will use it as an excuse.

They will not take their responsibility seriously, as the municipalities did, and increase taxes if necessary or increase revenues somehow in order to be able to preserve and expand our social services. On page 11 they deal with the bulk of social services in one line: "My government is committed to provide a continued strong support for health care, education, day care and those in need." That is essentially it.

Let us deal with day care. If we are seeing the same commitment to day care now that we have seen from this government in the last number of years, then day care is going to be in sad shape in Ontario for the next number of years. The only reason there were increases in the day care amounts last year, and in the number of subsidized spaces last year, was because pressure developed. The lobby for day care became very strong, especially in Metro Toronto, and the government decided to go for the minimum figure, 500 spaces, that somebody at the lower municipal level was silly enough to put up as the target, instead of the 4,000 spaces that were talked about as required in the task force report.

The minister at that time—and God knows what the new minister is going to be like—used to take advice from an American quack on day care policy. I saw a recent article by him and he still believes that day care is not necessarily

good for kids. He believes day care can be bad for kids and therefore government should be really cautious when it gets into it. As a result we have seen in the last budget an infinitesimal rise in the amount of money given to infant care, something like $450,000 which can buy a handful of spaces—and only an expansion of subsidized spaces in the province.

There is no underlying philosophy about what day care is about. This government still believes that day care is a welfare issue and that it is a matter of buying subsidized spaces for those poor people in need. It does not understand that day care is part of an industrial strategy, that day care is an employment issue, not a welfare issue. Day care is a matter of the right to work for women. It means the right to a home for a lot of people and it is needed to maintain the family values that are spoken of so highly in here.

A family cannot afford a house in which to raise its children if it has to spend $290 a month for one child in day care. It is impossible. How can a family save the money towards a house if the woman is not able to go back to work after, say, a six-month pregnancy leave because there is no infant day care? It is real and it is happening.

When my sister learned she had conceived, the next day she phoned for a space in infant day care in Metro Toronto, paying the full shot. She only learned one week before she went back to work that she had that space. Otherwise she was going to be in the position of having to leave her infant with somebody whom she did not trust in a home situation, with whom there was a great communication problem because of language. It was only because she had arranged it that early that she was able to get that space.

A lot of people in this province right now are going back to work, are leaving their children in inadequate and dangerous situations, and this government is not willing to act or it is unwilling to understand that the goal it should have is universality. Its goal should be the right for any parent to have his or her child in day care.

I am not saying it is going to achieve that overnight. I remember the past minister throwing out a ridiculous figure of $7 billion to do it. What it should be doing is looking at how to integrate that with the whole education system in terms of local schools. It should be making sure that space is being used properly and that day care is being implemented.

In this government, there is no mention of it. There is just the fact that we are going to end up with the same kind of strong support that we have seen in the past when 4.2 per cent of children who need day care are in and 96 per cent are not in. It is just a failure of planning.

There is no mention in here about the problems of child abuse. We have had a consistent problem of funding of children's aid societies around the province. We had a horde of strikes in the last year or two. We have another one pending right now in Toronto. I do not know whether it is on or off at this moment but boy, when that one goes, it is going to cause havoc in Metropolitan Toronto. That has been because of a lack of a co-ordinated attack and approach to the children's aid societies and their funding, and an incredible disregard for the problem of child abuse that is prevalent in our society today.

I raised the question with the new minister the other day, referring to Nijah Degg who died a number of months ago and about whom there was a report from the ministry which criticizes the role of the ministry, the protector in this case, and the role of the children's aid society as the agent of that protection for the child. Yet I am told by the minister that is not going to be made available to us because it is sub judice, that it will have to wait.

4:50 p. m.

He said it is probably going to be another year or year and a half or maybe two years before we are able to get hold of that information. That information is not secret information. I have it on good account that that information has already been given to the children's aid society here in Toronto, and that the CAS and the ministry have already sat down and gone over this report, this report which he tells me is supposedly just for the crown to be able to conduct its affairs. That report, in my view, is going to be essentially suppressed.

That is not the only one. We had an inquiry set up by Judge Ward Allen. Twenty-six months ago he completed that inquiry. Just a month ago he said the report was nowhere near completion. All the accounts in the trial that went on all said there were really serious problems with the way our child care system was protecting children in potential abuse situations. Yet we have seen no action and no demand by this government that he come forward with his report. If he is busy with other cases he should be taken off them. This is an important issue, and there is no mention of that as a priority by this government in the throne speech.

Finally, there is no mention at all of children's

services for the native people of this province. I do not know if any of you have read the reports on the status of native children which have come out since 1977, but almost double the average percentage of children under protective care, that normal average, are native children. Those native children are out in foster homes and those foster homes are primarily of non-Indian, non-native families. It is becoming a major factor in the disruption of our Indian and native communities.

There has been no role taken as yet by this government. There should be a statement in here saying that the delivery of those social services to protect children in terms of protective-care custody of native children should be handled by the bands themselves, should be under their control. Those children should be kept under band supervision as much as possible; they should not be sent out to white homes all around the north, as is occurring. There is no mention of that. There is no understanding of that as a major and serious problem. We instead have just one line telling us how we are going to be handling our present services.

My own area of expertise and background is in work with the elderly. There is a lovely line here for the elderly: "Continuing emphasis will be placed on community living for elderly and disabled persons, enabling them to live in their own homes." I do not deny that there is a horde of programs, a hotchpotch of programs around the province to try to enable people to remain in their own homes—in fact I worked on one, an experimental program that is still continuing—but since 1976 this government supposedly recognized that there was a real problem in terms of co-ordination.

In 1976 the then minister, the present Minister of the Environment (Mr. Norton), promised there would be co-ordinated legislation for the nine acts and 13 different programs, or however many it is. In 1979, in estimates, he promised me that by the spring of 1980 we would have legislation.

By the fall when he came back, he and his deputy minister apologized to me. They said it had not been possible, that they had been going through this community dialogue, but that very shortly, in fact by December 1980, there would be a white paper that would be circulated to the four corners. That is the way it was put to me. The four corners of I don't know what closet; the four corners of the cabinet room is as far as I know that it ever got, because we have seen nothing of it, except that I have a copy coming to me through the same source from which I got the Toronto Island paper.

The reason that has gone nowhere is that there was no discussion with the Ministry of Health. They are talking about co-ordinating home support services to the elderly and disabled, and yet there has been no communication between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community and Social Services. There is no agreement on how you put together that legislation after supposedly four and a half years of work.

What we have here is that there will be continuing emphasis. Well, if that is the emphasis we have got, then I have to say that, by God, we are not going to see this for another year and a half again, or maybe two years, or maybe it will come in the last year. It is vitally needed. There are all sorts of areas of the province where programs are not available, where there are gaps in programs. The minister in charge of the Social Development secretariat knows that. There is a vital need for having this in, yet we are not going to see it.

The paper that was distributed was an absolute disgrace. It could have been written by any second-year bachelor of social work student. It listed a range of things we might look at, a lot of which are contradictory, and it tosses them up in the air with no indication of the government's direction, although it raises that horrible idea, in my view, that the private sector might have a very important role to play in terms of home-support delivery of services. The notion that a fee for service and some kind of fixed fee and income testing mechanism might be brought in is very worrisome. Yet we haven't seen it and we have no idea when it is going to come forward.

We have nothing in here about the needs in terms of housing that are reflected in terms of home support. Why don't we have recommendations in this throne speech for a whole development of sheltered housing as they have in Britain? Why isn't that here? Why isn't the proposal here for a major move in terms of group homes for the elderly for the province? Why isn't there a proposal for assistance to elderly people who wish to subdivide their homes to have somebody in with them which would be a great boon to a number of widows in this province? There are no recommendations of that sort. There has been no creative thinking at all by this government in terms of that area.

Then we have the homes for the aged. My God, what a flip-flop we have there. It makes

the member for Hamilton West look like an amateur. As late as a few weeks before the election, we had the member for Kingston and the Islands (Mr. Norton) getting up and saying that there would be no expansion of homes for the aged. Two months before that, he told me in committee there would be no expansion. I asked him whether he thought he would even be keeping them in public control and he wasn't sure of that. Then right in the middle of the election, all of a sudden we get the announcement that there is going to be a major increase of several hundred beds in homes for the aged around the province.

We still don't know what this government intends to do about those homes for the aged because all of us who have been involved in the field know they are more and more like nursing homes. The average age is well over 80 in most of those institutions, and the kind of nursing that is needed is much closer to nursing homes than it is to homes for the aged. Yet this province has a system of nursing homes which is almost entirely under private control. It is the only area of health care that we have in this province which is health care for profit. It is interesting that we do it to our elderly.

One of the best investments we can make, because I know the people over there like to make investments, would be in extended care. They could make themselves a fortune. They would be making it on nursing homes with poor standards that try to minimize costs in order to maximize profit and it is something of which we should all be ashamed. I predict this government will move towards moving the homes for the aged that it controls into that sector within the next number of years.

Whatever happened to the notion that we might have a senior citizens secretariat? There were all sorts of rumours that was going to be in here. I don't know when it was erased but it never made it. It has been a recommendation from the Ontario Advisory Council on Senior Citizens, from the United Senior Citizens of Ontario and from Canadian Pensioners Concerned Inc., for I don't know how many years. I had thought I had seen a hint of it coming when I was on a TV program during the election with the minister in charge of the Social Development secretariat.

There is nothing in here about chronic care. There is no statement in here that the government is finally going to get rid of that damned double standard that it has for elderly people in chronic care. Some time they should admit it is unjust that a person who is 64 years of age can earn up to $15,000 a year and have no costs for chronic care, whereas two people who are 65 years and over on pension have the one person's pension taken totally to go into paying his or her cost in the chronic care facility, which leaves the other person with income with which it is very difficult for them to maintain themselves in their own home. There is no move away from that and it is very disappointing.

We have the International Year of Disabled Persons and what do we have in here? We have primary promises that go in the area of recreation. I have no difficulties with money being put into areas of recreation and social activity for the handicapped. There is a great complex in my riding, but I would say that there are some more basic needs that have to be looked at for handicapped people. Why is it that people who are on disability pensions are not eligible for the property tax grant? Why is it that they have been excluded? Their income is less than most pensioners on the basic pension with the guaranteed annual income supplement would get, yet they are not eligible. How can it be said that the government is helping to keep people in their homes when it is not even giving them a basic income upon which to live and maintain their homes? Why is the government not giving them the same tax break that any senior citizen gets in this province?

5 p.m.

Why do we start looking at recreational kinds of things when we should be looking at prosthetic aids? This is something that has been studied for months now by the Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell) and we have no indication that there is going to be some sort of movement on it in the next few months.

We have a school for the deaf in my riding and during the campaign I ran into three families with children who have to have moulded hearing aids for both ears at a cost of approximately $600 a shot. They have to pick up the entire cost of those hearing aids because they are not covered under OHIP. Of course they decide to spend the money there. Of course they decide that this is their priority and the money is spent there. They are willing to do that three or four times as that child grows and the hearing aid needs to be refitted.

Why should they be put through the extra financial pressure of that kind of cost? Why wasn't that a priority for the disabled instead of recreational and social kinds of funds? It does not make any sense to me at all.

Why is it that we are not making the building code changes mandatory? When we renovate a school now we give grants to the school if it will make its property accessible to the handicapped, but they do not have to do that. It is not mandatory that any public building, when renovations are done, must be renovated to fit the needs of the handicapped. That is something that is much more basic than recreational and social needs, which is an area where the volunteer sector has been doing not a bad job at all.

Then there is the question I raised almost a year ago about the radio reading service and the whole matter of funding. Blind people in this particular area of Metro rely on a broadcast from Oakville to get the basic news and information that we take for granted from the daily newspapers, of which I read three. That is something we all take for granted, yet that organization has been going from year to year with ad hoc grants and has never received the full, long-term kind of grant it should be receiving. That is something that would be a much more practical and basic kind of thing for the government to be involved with.

The final item I want to deal with for a minute is housing. The fact that there is a need for a speculation tax is something we in our party accept implicitly. The fact that there are major speculators active throughout Metropolitan Toronto is something we understand is really happening.

When the Minister of Housing (Mr. Bennett) gets up and says that even though it takes $44,000 a year to own the average home in Metro the poor should move to Peel or to particular housing developments that are off the beaten track in terms of those people who work in a factory in my riding—that this is where they should go if they want housing—then we are in some really serious difficulties. We have a minister who should be coming into this House with ostrich feathers attached to his derriere, because that is essentially the stance he is taking.

I know personally of an example of a home which, a week after the closing date of the first purchase, was sold again at a $50,000 difference; no upgrading, no nothing, just $50,000 of profit. I heard just yesterday at a brunch I was at about a condominium that is beautiful. There were three closing dates all being decided at the same time by lawyers before a judge. One was a sale in October, it was sold again in November and then it was sold again in December. As the ownership passed from lawyer to lawyer, one person owned it at $275,000, the next person owned it at $355,000 and the next person owned it at over $400,000, all in the space of about three minutes. And the Minister of Housing tells us there is no problem with speculation.

I have a personal problem. As a result of finally feeling secure enough in my seat because of my landslide victory of 400 big ones, I now want to buy the house I have been living in at Victoria Park and Kingston Road, which is not in the centre of the city, if someone would tell the great Minister of Housing that. Our landlord suggested we might be able to buy this at around $80,000 to $90,000. Feeling a little insecure during the election, I hesitated to put down an offer; afterwards, full of confidence, I phoned him in Nova Scotia and said I would be glad to. He said, "Well, we have decided to have an assessor come in." They had just read the Maclean's story. I said, "Oh," and he said, "Somebody will be coming by in the next few days to give us an estimate." "Great," I said.

Well, a house that is almost exactly the same as ours in outward appearance came available up the street. I phoned to find out what the cost was. The cost of this home was $154,000. I said, "Wow, this house on the outside looks the same as mine, but perhaps it has some magnificent features." The real estate agent said, "Well, it has an electric fireplace." I said, "That's wonderful; we have one that works." I asked, "Are there other features?" and he said, "Well, it unfortunately does not have any closets, but it does have plate rails on both floors." I said, "Are plate rails now being given out as a feature in housing?" and he said, "Yes."

I thought, "Oh my God, what am I going to do?" Our landlord did all sorts of work on our place in terms of renovating it, and my house, I am sure, by next week will be estimated at something like $130,000, $140,000 or more. Even I, as an overpaid member of the Legislature—some would say underpaid, as we all cry now—am not going to be able to afford to buy this place. I am going to have to move to Peel because the other homes in Scarborough West will all be going at the same kind of level. That is hardly going to be acceptable.

The throne speech, as I see it, is essentially a boring one, lacking enthusiasm, lacking vigour, lacking vision, lacking creativity. If that is the kind of thing we are going to be seeing from that side for the next four years, I can guarantee that the response from this side is going to be anything but boring, it is going to be anything but tranquil, and members are going to be hearing a lot from us on this side.

Mr. Shymko: Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to stand in this House today to participate in the throne speech debate. I wish to congratulate you, first of all, on your appointment to guide us in our deliberations, and also to congratulate all the newly elected members of our assembly and the re-elected members who have chosen to serve and represent the people of Ontario and work towards our common prosperity, our unity and the growth of our Canadian Confederation. The events leading up to March 19 were exhilarating and challenging for me, as I am sure they were for many members. Now that Ontarians have stated their preference, it is up to us in this House to get down to business.

I would like to refer to my initiating experience in the business of the Legislature last Tuesday. I saw the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) here a minute ago, but he has left. I recall this as my initiation to the procedures in our chamber and to the high degree of respect we have for one another and for this institution. It came as rather a shock to many of us, especially our newly elected members, when the member for Oshawa looked at us as we were sitting listening to his speech at 9:30 in the evening; he said, "As I look at that pile of manure . . ." and then he proceeded.

That was quite an initiation to the procedures of this House. I am sure this type of expression was the result perhaps of the frustrations and the pains of having been decimated the way a certain party was on March 19. I am sure it was no reference to the frustrations of the throne speech, which is an excellent economic strategy for the growth of this province, but I would like to state that I felt this was an insult. But then, as I think about it, I think it is an insult to the member himself, to his constituents, certainly to his party—and I see the member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) sitting here. Perhaps we should get a list of the acceptable expressions in referring to one another, so that we can use a terminology that would lend respect to one another.

5:10 p.m.

The throne speech has given all of us a great deal to think about and an opportunity to debate the many philosophies—if I may use the term—policies and programs enunciated in the speech. One especially has a particular significance to me. It is contained in the opening paragraph and I would like to quote this sentence, if I may: "May I express the wish that your hopes and objectives, and those of your constituents, will be fulfilled through the opportunities for service afforded you as individual members and together as the Legislature of this great, historic province."

It is my belief that the strength of the democratic system lies in the fact that all of us here, representing different political ideologies, can criticise and can debate policies, suggest new ones, and eventually arrive at some sort of conclusion. We, the 70 members on this side of the House, in my opinion provide what we may term the leadership and focus for these policies and programs under our own scrutiny in caucus, and under yours as well, Mr. Speaker, that will affect the lives—and this is something we tend to forget—of more than 8.5 million Ontarians, almost one third of the population of Canada.

As Ontarians, all of us realize we have common goals and common aspirations, on whichever side of the chamber we may sit. There is no doubt a commonality of purpose and of concerns to improve the quality of life of our citizens and to lighten the burden of that brief passage of time we call life. One goal that all parties in this House have agreed to is the desire to have a patriated constitution which will clarify federal and provincial divisions of power in a way that is relevant to national decision-making, not only in the 1980s but in the twenty-first century.

It was indeed an experience as I sat in the gallery and heard the unanimity of the debate here in this chamber in this great, important area of concern. Ontario, no doubt, wants a constitution to guarantee clearly the very fundamental democratic rights of all Canadians. One hundred and fourteen years ago, Canada became a nation. Since that time we have grown, we have developed and we have taken our place in the family of nations, and we certainly have the respect of that family.

Monsieur l'orateur, nous avons été élus pour servir tous les citoyens, il n'y a pas de question, de cette province, la communauté majoritaire tant que la communauté minoritaire, de notre province de l'Ontario. Nous devons répondre aux aspirations des autochtones, des francophones, des communautés éthno-culturelles déjà établies de plusieurs générations et des immigrants qui viennent de s'établir dans notre pays.

Et c'est en fonction du degré de pression et de prise de conscience—si je peux me servir du terme—du public et des citoyens initiés par les minorités voulant être traitées en toute égalité et dans un climat de compréhension de leurs besoins de citoyens égaux que nous avons vu, et je voudrais souligner que nous avons vu des

changements remarquables pendant les quatre dernières décennies sous la direction d'un gouvernement conservateur en Ontario.

Et j'ai écouté la présentation du député de Scarborough West qui, en parlant français, a démontré qu'il y a en effet le besoin de progrès. Je voudrais indiquer simplement que le progrès qu'on avait fait dans les services de la langue française dans cette province dans les dix dernières années, que nous voyons dans le rapport annuel de 1979 du bureau du Coordonnateur provincial des services en langue française, est un progrès remarquable et qui aurait dû prendre un demi-siècle. Et ça, nous devons l'admettre. Ce n'est pas la fin. Naturellement, ce n'est pas la fin. Mais nous voyons des changements remarquables. Notons les services en français devant les tribunaux: un autre exemple du progrès que nous avons faits sous la direction d'un parti qu'on appelle Conservateur Progressiste, qui démontre les progrès que nous faisons.

Canada, and especially Ontario, has become a haven for a wide variety of ethnic groups. I am proud to say I am a Canadian and I am also proud of my heritage and proud that the people of my riding who come from many diverse backgrounds have elected me to speak on their behalf in this chamber. The riding of High Park-Swansea represents a microcosm of our pluralistic society. Diverse socially and culturally, it is a vibrant community that has made a remarkable contribution both individually and collectively to the growth and prosperity of this city and province.

Political leaders—and I may name a series of them, such as Colonel George Drew from the riding of High Park—epitomize the quality of such leadership. Sixty per cent of the riding of High Park-Swansea—by the way it was in 1975 that the boundaries were changed to include the former village of Swansea—represents major minority groups of Ontario. They represent the largest concentrations of such communities as Canadians of Ukrainian, Polish, Lithuanian and Maltese origins and almost 20 other groups.

We have more than 2,000 francophones, I would point out quite proudly. Most, like myself, are not of French-Canadian or Québecois origin and background but they share the linguistic ability and the cultural sensitivity of our Franco-Ontarian population. Many no doubt came to our shores to enjoy our economic opportunities in Ontario and Canada. We should remember that more than one half of all immigrants choose this province as the place to settle, despite the boom in places like Alberta. Many came to our shores for these economic opportunities, but also many arrived here to escape political persecution in their homelands.

In order to illustrate the nature of this riding, I will indicate the many monuments. In Budapest Park on Lakeshore Road we have a monument to the Hungarian freedom fighters, and in High Park a monument to the great Ukrainian poetess Lesia Ukrainka, whose poem Contra Spem Spero, which means Hoping Against Hopelessness, is always quoted to illustrate the human will for survival. Last year we erected a monument to the victims of Katyn, a symbol to Canadians of Polish origin of the massacre of 15,000 officers of the Polish army by the Soviet regime. There are plans now being discussed by the Maltese community to erect a monument to Louis Schikluna, a famous Canadian shipbuilder of the nineteenth century of Maltese origin who lived in St. Catharines.

There is that pride of the contribution to the growth and prosperity of this province and country. To symbolize their contribution briefly, perhaps in a way that some members may have done in the past in the constitutional debate, I would appreciate the privilege of addressing our assembly in two of those languages, Ukrainian and Polish.

These are among the list of almost 50 languages whose survival in this province and country is guaranteed by our heritage language program, of which we are very proud and which was initiated by a Progressive Conservative government. I would like to remind our honourable members that such a privilege was used by Her Majesty's representative in Canada, the Governor General, His Excellency Ed Schreyer, at his installation a few years ago. So I will be using this privilege which was used by some honourable members during the constitutional debate.

5:20 p.m.

[Translation from Ukrainian.]

Mr. Speaker, as you travel across our western provinces, you find hundreds of small graves of children dispersed throughout the many cemeteries of towns and villages where the first Ukrainian pioneers settled at the turn of the century along with immigrants of other backgrounds. Their task was the opening of our Canadian west under often difficult if not tragic conditions. These children were not as fortunate as their parents to survive these hardships. They were not destined as we were to participate in the common building process of this

great country of ours. We should be reminded at times of that sacred gift of life which we all share and treasure in common as members of the human family.

My ancestors and all our ancestors, be they native peoples, the settlers of New France, the Loyalists of Upper Canada or the thousands of settlers and refugees who came from all corners of the world, have made an invaluable contribution to the growth and prosperity of Ontario and Canada.

Canadians of Ukrainian origin number almost three quarters of a million in this country. Of these, 86 per cent are Canadian-born, many fourth-generation Canadians. Of all the provinces in our Dominion, their largest numbers are here in Ontario. It should not surprise us that four members of our Legislature are of Ukrainian background, reflecting the wide diversity of all our honourable members on both sides of this chamber.

[End of translation.]

I just mentioned that Ontario, again in terms of numbers, has the highest number of Canadians of Ukrainian origin, and it is no surprise that four members of our Legislature are of that origin. Certainly that a reflection of the diversity of all our members here and the diversity of members on both sides of the House.

[Translation from Ukrainian.]

The Ukrainian nation of 50 million living in the lands of its forebears in eastern Europe has been decimated by centuries of subjugation, persecution, two world wars and the holocausts of Stalin's and Hitler's regimes of terror. That nation was able, nevertheless, not only to survive physically policies of genocide, ethnocide and linguicide, but to retain and develop its rich cultural heritage and to pass a millennium of treasured traditions to its heirs.

The history of such peoples as Ukrainians gives us an understanding of why it is so important to a number of ethnocultural groups and non official-language minorities in Canada that their cultural and linguistic heritages be protected by such policies as multiculturalism, guaranteed by provincial statutory acts as well as by the new Canadian constitution. To them it is a question of continued survival and the struggle to survive as identified cultural and linguistic entities making up our richly diverse human family.

The greatest treasure is nevertheless the freedoms and common liberties we enjoy as citizens and residents, the rights of free men and women to choose and decide the growth and development of our individual and communal lives without infringing on the rights of others. These are rights and privileges about which the peoples in their former homelands, from which Ukrainian Canadians and other Canadians have emigrated, can only dream today under conditions of foreign oppression and dictatorial regimes.

[End of translation.]

[Translation from Polish.]

Mr. Speaker, every year the Polish community in Canada and the respective communities outside Poland—and now, for the first time in 36 years, people in Poland itself commemorate the historic anniversary of the Polish Constitution of the Third of May.

Yesterday, Canadians of Polish origin in Ontario marked the one hundred and ninetieth anniversary of the declaration of this first democratic Polish constitution, which heralded one of the most progressive political frameworks in the western world through the establishment of a constitutional monarchy. By marking such anniversaries and such important historical events, the young generation of Polish Canadians learns about events in Poland, about the land and the people whose ancestry and heritage it has proudly preserved.

Similar to the declaration of the May constitution 190 years ago, which proved to be too revolutionary and was followed by foreign invasion and the tragic partition of Poland, we are witnessing historic developments today in Poland, namely the free trade union movement of Solidarity, a unique phenomenon of international scope and implications. Just as in the past, similarly today we are witnessing the creative genius of the Polish people, epitomizing a strength and power that permeate all levels of society.

Just as in the past, similarly today the motivating impulse is social justice combined with the deep sense of patriotism of the Polish people. We join Canadians of Polish origin in sharing their hope and faith that we will see the inevitable day when the liberties symbolized by the May constitution will be enjoyed by the Polish nation—the same freedoms we enjoy in Canada and which, it is hoped, will be guaranteed by our new Canadian constitution.

[End of translation.]

Today, Mr. Speaker, all Canadians are awaiting the impending decision of the Supreme Court of Canada. It is very important to ensure that the freedoms that brought people to this

country are stated clearly and are enforced fully. There is little doubt that one of the major influences of the revised constitution has come as a result of public input from many groups across the country, and we have witnessed that procedure. The first draft of the charter of rights was quite different from the present draft after that major public input.

I think we are all proud of the participation of many minority groups, and I would say more than half of the witnesses came from minorities who were concerned about the protection of their rights as they appeared before the joint parliamentary committee. If we are to have a constitution that is truly reflective of our society we must solicit and listen carefully to all ideas.

I had the privilege of being a member of the Ontario delegation to the first ministers' conference last September. I would like to point out that Ontario was the only delegation that allowed for civil servant advisers and nonelected cabinet ministers at the time to participate at that constitutional conference. I would like to point out that I shared in the challenges and frustrations that surrounded those meetings. Many of my constituents emigrated, or more truly, escaped from countries of persecution. That is why they cherish a charter of rights, rights that can only be dreamed of in many countries of the world today, including their former homelands.

Many of my constituents, from the nonpolitical but economic aspect, emigrated from countries where there were strict internal restrictions on the flow of people, of goods, of services. I would like to comment for a moment about this. We have heard examples of some problem between Quebec and Ontario. If we talk about mobility rights, let us have a national vision of Canada. I would like to point out that we cannot continue to place limited provincial interests ahead of the growth and development of Canada as a nation. Full freedom of movement and action, work, travel, investment and business must be maintained for all Canadians. We, as a government of Ontario, have had a major input in supporting that very economic principle.

It is incredible to think that Canadians who have had the benefits of an abundant source of material prosperity, abundant mineral resources, agricultural resources, energy, manpower and skills, are constantly squabbling today about who is entitled to what and not getting on with their work. The rest of the world must think it is positively ludicrous. It is positively ludicrous. I am sure the member for Oakwood (Mr. Grande) will agree that we must start talking about the issues, the guts, the problems that affect our lives today. We have started with our Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program, I remind the member for Oakwood, who so eloquently expressed his support to at least some of the aspects of the BILD program in the past.

I would like to point this out to the members opposite: While the debate continues nationally about whether to entrench a charter of rights, and I pointed out it is a very important area, we in Ontario have put forth major revisions of our own human rights code, which is one of the most progressive codes in the western world today. The issues we placed before the House last November are ones that reflect our social and human needs, and all members will agree. We live in a pluralistic society and it is important to make clear that we as a society recognize and protect the human rights of all citizens by extending protection to the handicapped, and for people subject to sexual harassment. We are responding to the nature and needs of Ontarians. The guarantees of domestic workers are another example of that progressive legislation.

5:30 p.m.

A good example of the government's response to the needs of Ontarians has been the introduction of the amendments to the Devolution of Estates Act. It is important that we protect not only the rights of the living but the wishes of the deceased as well. Justice can assume many different forms, and I can only stress that we are no doubt all aware of the ripoff to the tune of approximately $10 million every year of many Canadians, many Canadians from eastern Europe and particularly from such countries as the Soviet Union, which often will declare a person deceased while the person is still living in Canada, and file for estate claims. They have a vast network of inspections and files and whatever term may be used for investigation along with the system and style that they use, which is not necessarily acceptable here. These people have been victimized, and I think the amendments to the Devolution of Estates Act are part of that concern of the population of our province.

I would like to say that when the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Smith) made his remarks on the throne speech I recall that he became very upset with us on this side of the House because we had not decided to act on the recommendations contained in the report of the royal commission on pensions. I recall that. I am truly amazed at the Leader of the Opposition. It was

not until mid-February of this year, if I may recall, that the commission's 163 recommendations were submitted to the government, and this, as you all remember, was in the middle of an election. Not only does he expect us to adopt the findings now, but the member from Hamilton West (Mr. Smith) chides us with a remark from Isaiah, saying, "Their strength is to sit still." Mr. Speaker, imagine!

I would like to quote Henry Clay, who said over 150 years ago: "Governments are trustees, and both the trust and the trustees are created for the benefit of all the people." We have been presented with an enormous, complex and detailed report, which is no doubt very important. It takes time to assess the recommendations and to determine possible courses of action that will be beneficial to the entire society that will be affected by these recommendations.

The members opposite are itching to express their views on that report, no doubt. As indicated in the throne speech a select committee will be asked to examine and review the recommendations contained in the report. We do not have to stress the great degree of importance that the members opposite had placed on committees, as you recall. Not even the Legislature here was as important as committees and subcommittees to look, to study, to analyse, to reanalyse legislation before it was introduced. All of a sudden now it is almost sacrilegious, it is almost evil, to pass such recommendations to a committee. Maybe the members opposite know something that I don't know. Maybe the Leader of the Opposition has forgotten that just maybe the public should be consulted with regard to an issue of this scope.

If the House will recall, the Toronto Star, by no means a Conservative paper, raised serious objections in an editorial to some of the basic recommendations of that report. I am sure an editorial speaks for many people. In the course of our vast legislative experience it must have dawned on the opposition that constructive results come from public consultation and input. I do not know all the ramifications that would result from implementing the recommendations, and I venture to say that they don't know either. The Toronto Star is an example of that concern, and I know the member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht) expressed some of his concerns. I think he should share these concerns with his colleagues on that particular report.

We are not sitting still in this area, nor are we sitting still in many others. In the course of my work, for example, as chairman of the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship I met many groups of people whose suggestions and ideas became incorporated in that council's recommendations to the government. I would like to ask how many of the members opposite even read that report and recommendations which were mailed as far back as June 1980. I am sure if one were to ask, only a select few will have even an idea of what the recommendations were. That is from public input. The member for Oakwood is again waving his hands. I would like to ask the member if he can quote some of the recommendations.

Mr. Grande: How many of the new members have read it?

Mr. Shymko: Name me one recommendation from that council. He is very often such a concerned member.

Mr. Grande: You are a newcomer to that field. Don't forget it.

Mr. Shymko: I would like to hear some of these recommendations, but as you can see, Mr. Speaker, he doesn't remember them because he never read them. In this coming year, from that one council, four task forces have been set up to examine a report on native policy, a report on broadcasting in Ontario, on equal opportunities in government service and, finally, tax exemptions to community cultural centres. These are four very important task forces. The council was not designated to operate in a vacuum nor on the top of some mountain removed from the people. Nor by the same token does government operate behind or beyond the wishes of its constituents.

The very fact that we are here today is a clear indication we are a part of that decision-making process and no one will question that. When the reports of these task forces are submitted to the government—and I would certainly appreciate it if the honourable members opposite would at least read the reports—I am quite confident they will be examined and considered by everyone and perhaps asked to be submitted to committees for study and scrutiny.

It is no different with the pension report. By sending it to a committee of elected representatives—and I stress "elected representatives"—we will have the opportunity to learn and understand the impact and the ramifications of the proposals on the public sector and government.

I know the honourable member for Hamilton West is not present here. At least the leader of

the NDP was present for a while to give moral support to some of the concerns expressed in the debate on the throne speech. Very poor leadership, I must say.

The success of Ontario has been based on a foundation of private enterprise developed by thousands of small businessmen as well as large companies. This is something the honourable members of the third party will want to listen to and consider. I see the member for Oakwood nodding his head. I am sure he will agree Ontario's prominence as a manufacturing and industrial centre has been consistently promoted and developed by this government through small business loans, through tax incentives and through the support of our post-secondary institutions.

Whatever criticism there is of our Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson), as Canadians we are faced with the challenges of controlling and reducing inflation, coping with increased energy costs and competing with other world markets. This is a very tall order and that is why, as Canadians, as members of this Legislature, we must get together and work out comprehensive solutions to these problems. This could be done through committees at times—often through committees—including through the royal commission report on pensions.

The provincial governments can do only so much individually, no doubt, but together, working with the federal government, we can take decisive and reasonable actions to cure these ills. I am sure, since man is not perfect, nor are governments perfect, we will not find perfect solutions. It is impossible. At least we have the humility to admit we are not perfect. But we should not live with the arrogance implied by the solutions of the members opposite which epitomize some perfection in human nature and human talent.

5:40 p.m.

I would like to stress that the BILD program we have presented gives an excellent outline on the economic directions this province will be taking, no matter what the cynicism of some members opposite. However, as was stated in the throne speech, and I quote, "Without question, government has a role to play to assist in opening the door to employment opportunities. But it is the role of private enterprise to provide the wide range of choices which our society requires." That is what democracy is all about, choices and the freedom of implementing choices.

At the same time, our society must be able to rely on the very resourcefulness and will of its own members. I would like to point out that one of the key goals of the program is the expansion of our food processing facilities. That has a particular impact in my riding, I must admit, since the Toronto stockyards are located there. I would like to propose that the government establish a special committee composed of the farming community, the packing companies, local businessmen, municipal representatives, the ratepayer organizations and home owners of the area to examine—

Mr. Grande: I thought that was going to take place.

Mr. Shymko: I will remind the member for Oakwood of that commitment in the BILD program to examine and develop a long-term development strategy for the stockyards and the surrounding area. I will remind the member for Oakwood that it is because the former member for High Park-Swansea was cynical and did not believe in that genuine concern that today he is listening to me and to no one else and there is that empty seat.

I would like to propose that to the government. I would urge the government and the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Henderson) to do that. I am saying this in public. I am urging a minister of the crown to establish this committee by the end of this year so hearings and public consultations which members support, which members have always supported, can be undertaken as quickly as possible. I would like to challenge the members opposite to criticize that concern and that suggestion.

This proposal will have long-term benefits, not only for the residents of my riding in terms of improving their living and working environment, but for all Ontarians. As I stated in the campaign, it will ensure that Ontario maintains its competitive position in the food processing sector.

A crucial component in the development and expansion of our economy is a strong labour force. The Ministry of Colleges and Universities will be developing a community counselling program to assist our youth in developing their abilities and career opportunities. This is very much a concern of mine, having been in education for over 13 years. I stress that we cannot continue to allow our young people to sit and wait for us to make all the decisions. There are so many young people today in Ontario who have ideas, who have ambitions, who have enthusiasm, who have talents—

Mr. Swart: And no jobs to go to because of the member's government.

Mr. Shymko: —and who have jobs. If the member opposite recalls the statistics for the graduates of our universities, more than 95 or 96 per cent of our graduates have obtained employment in the areas and in the field of their studies. That is a fact.

I would like to point out that in government and in industry, we must give them the chance to try out their ideas to see if they work. Just as established businesses are competing today with foreign markets, so our university students, our youth are competing with youth in Japan, with youth in the United States, with youth in Germany and many other countries. That is a challenge.

Because we have such a broad multicultural base in Ontario—and I would point to some relationships—we have a built-in advantage in that we are recipients of so many different ideas, values and approaches to business and industry.

I would like to point out that the present secondary education review project committee has received from the minister a public request to give accreditation to community-run third-language schools where someone studying Japanese for 11 years—and Japanese is quite an ability today in competing for international trade—would be given credit for those 11 years, although he or she may not be studying in a public secondary school but in a community-run school. This would give credit to these young people who are putting in years of study.

I would also like to point out that the Ministry of Industry and Tourism is developing a new international intern program which is designed to strengthen foreign business marketing expertise for Ontario companies. To say this is not a genuine attempt is foolish.

There is absolutely no doubt that we in Ontario can learn a great deal from the business attitudes and practices of other countries. We can learn a great deal here. We do not have to leave Canada to learn the attitudes and practices of other countries; we can learn at home from those who have chosen Canada to be their country, those who have come to our shores from every corner of the world.

We can see what happens in other countries when labour-management relations become embittered and polarized. Sometimes some parties opposite would like to see nothing but confrontation. When this partnership is damaged by selfish and self-seeking practices, we all realize that nobody benefits. We seem to have fallen into a way of thinking that getting a bigger pay cheque each year is indicative of success regardless of the financial situation the company may face. I would like to know at what point the employees of a company feel a responsibility towards their employer. There have been exceptions to the traditional rule that only employers should bear the responsibility for the successful operation of a particular firm. We have all heard of the example in the United States when the Chrysler auto workers did agree to a reduced wage increase until the company got back on its feet. That is what I am talking about.

Just last week there was an article in the Toronto Star on how Japanese auto workers got together to prevent their employer from going under. The Mazda production line workers were relocated to the sales area so that they could persuade people to buy their cars. The company's researchers also altered their rotary engine to make it more fuel efficient. That mutual co-operation is the reason we have such tough competition from Japan and West Germany. Perhaps we can develop the spirit of this idea so that business and labour could co-operate on ideas that would be beneficial to both.

I would like to point out—and I think it was an impressive suggestion in a venture now—an article in the Globe and Mail last week, which spoke of the 80-member task force on Canada's corporate and labour elite, composed of 80 people who have studied the use of Canadian goods and services over the next 20 years. From the predictions, and the report will be coming out some time in June, we can save $440 billion in proposed buy-Canadian programs; $440 billion to stay here in this country by that type of co-operation, not confrontation, between labour and management. It is important to point out that about 30 per cent of the total expenditure on these projects would be in Ontario and Quebec.

That is what I mean by the type of vision and venture we can learn from other countries. For example, and this is an issue the New Democratic Party has raised over the years, why do we have to operate on the assumption that government should be the agency responsible for providing day care and, if the third party had its way, I am sure free day care? I think at some point we are going to decide who is responsible for delivering day care in Ontario and where day care centres should be.

5:50 p.m.

Perhaps the focus on day care should be shifted away from a social service perspective

and into a labour perspective. There is absolutely no reason why a labour union could not work with management in establishing day care facilities in the work place. It would be less expensive in terms of time and money, and more beneficial to the children if their mother or father could be close to visit. I would like to point out that it works; it works in places such as Japan, West Germany and Sweden. We can use the resources already in place in our communities.

I would like to point out the example of Villa Colombo Home for the Aged with which I am sure the member for Oakwood is familiar, and which, by the way, was realized by a $4.5 million Ontario capital grant, as he is being reminded once again. In that example, there is a day care centre attached to Villa Colombo. I have visited it, although not with the member for Oakwood. Maybe some day we will visit it together so that he may be influenced at least by some of the wisdom on this side of the House. I have visited it on several occasions and I can tell the House the elderly people there are delighted to have contact with young children.

There are many alternatives, many avenues we can explore in order to find solutions to the challenges we all face in this province. So, to quote once more from the throne speech, I would like to say: "We are a strong and vigorous province. Our continuing vitality, despite the pressures of the times, owes no little credit to the foresight and planning of past years." There is nothing wrong in repeating some of these programs.

There is wisdom in past years, and in past members, including some members opposite who may not be around. These are the views of the past, and many of these recommendations and plans are viable, and have provided the firm economic and social foundation of the Ontario of today. Reinforcing this foundation to ensure future growth and development is a crucial element in the strength of the Ontario of tomorrow.

Il faut conclure à la réaction des remarques du député à qui je m'adresse, le député de Sainte-Catherine, que notre province et notre pays est une société diverse, multiraciale et pluriculturelle. Cette réalité ne se reflète pas toujours dans les structures du pouvoir, ni dans les institutions de notre pays.

Interjection.

Mr. Shymko: I am sure if the member would pay attention he might learn some French, if not anything else.

C'est là le défi que nous devrons relever demain. Afin—

Mr. Ruston: Why did the member not learn while he was in Ottawa?

Mr. Shymko: This is why I am here, to profit from the members' wisdom. The problem is that in the past few days of experience I have profited very little. I hope in the months and years ahead I will indeed profit.

Mais ça c'est le défi que nous devrons relever demain, afin de faire en sorte que nos institutions soient ouvertes à cette réalité et en tiennent compte. Je voudrais rappeler que quand nous protégeons la diversité culturelle et quand nous respectons les droits des minorités—et moi, en effet, je suis membre d'une minorité; je vais essayer de ne pas interrompre la charmante députée de Hamilton Centre qui essaye d'interrompre mon idée.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: I remind the members that the member for High Park-Swansea has the floor.

Mr. Shymko: Alors je répète et je reviens au début de ma phrase. Quand nous protégeons la diversité culturelle, la diversité des Francophones disons, quand nous respectons les droits des minorités, nous cultivons la fine fleur de la tradition canadienne. Il n'y a pas de question, et c'est notre force et non pas notre faiblesse.

Et si on parle d'un parallèle entre le Québec et l'Ontario, d'un choix libre, je voudrais vous donner un exemple: un immigrant qui arrive en Ontario a le choix d'envoyer ses enfants dans une école anglophone ou dans une école francophone. Au Québec, cet immigrant n'a pas de choix. Il n'a pas de choix, et on appelle ça la liberté? Parlons en effet d'une égalité. Ce choix existe dans cette province: voilà l'égalité et la justice.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Mme. Copps, M. Shymko has the floor.

Mr. Shymko: Mais c'est pour cette raison que nous allons profiter de vos suggestions. Des suggestions des députés du côté opposé. En effet puisque j'ai quelques minutes à terminer, monsieur l'Orateur, je voudrais dire que l'unité véritable dont je rêve, dont vous rêvez, dont nous rêvons ensemble, et que je vois dans cette province n'empêche pas les différences mais se

nourrit au contraire de la diversité de ses membres, tant Francophones qu'Anglophones. Notre foi en cet idéal prend ses racines dans notre confiance même en la vie.

Members will have a translation. Perhaps some day there may even be a simultaneous translation, who knows? We have made great progress in the area of French language services, unmatched by other provinces. It is too bad, it is unfortunate, that the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy) is not here; he is never here when you need him. It is too bad, since he has publicly stated that the record of Ontario in achievement of the introduction of French and expansion of French language services is positive, and I highlight the wisdom of some of the members opposite.

Mr. Bradley: Why did you not tell the people about it during the campaign?

The Deputy Speaker: Mr. Bradley, Mr. Shymko has the floor, please. Mr. Shymko, you have two minutes to conclude.

Mr. Shymko: Since I have two more minutes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to terminate this brief dialogue. As I look around this chamber, despite the rather shocking initiation last Tuesday, I do sense a marvellous and sacred link. I do, as we all do. No doubt, we all have, as the heckling certainly illustrates, our party loyalties and our concerns, our partisan limitations, but we are bound by the same loyalties to our constituents, and that is reflected by the results of elections.

Government is indeed based on trust. It is based on the trust in the province of Ontario and it has delivered. The province of Ontario and its eight and a half million people represent that collective trust, and we should be reminded of this whatever our partisan feelings may be.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to participate in this debate, and with your guidance and assistance I am sure we will succeed in serving the people of Ontario to the best of our abilities, whatever side of the House we sit on.

On motion by Mr. Wrye, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

CONTENTS

Monday, May 4, 1981

Board of Internal Economy, Mr. Speaker. 307

Statements by the ministry

Baetz, Hon. R. C., Minister of Culture and Recreation:
Sudbury Science Centre. 307

Oral questions

Baetz, Hon. R. C., Minister of Culture and Recreation:
Radio reading service, Ms. Bryden. 319

Bennett, Hon. C. F., Minister of Housing:
Housing prices, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ruprecht. 311
Road allowances, Mr. Eakins. 314

Henderson, Hon. L. C., Minister of Agriculture and Food:
Interest rates, Mr. McKessock. 317

Norton, Hon. K. C., Minister of the Environment:
Acid rain, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Smith. 313
Windsor landfill, Mr. Ruston. 318

Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities:
Grade 13 graduates, Mr. Smith, Mr. Cassidy. 308
Secondary schools, Mr. Grande. 317

Timbrell, Hon. D. R., Minister of Health:
Urea-formaldehyde foam insulation, Mr. Swart, Mr. Philip, Mr. Nixon. 315

Walker, Hon. G. W., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Provincial Secretary for Justice:
Hotel fires, Mr. Smith, Mr. Breaugh. 309

Welch, Hon. R. S., Minister of Energy:
Windsor landfill, Mr. Ruston. 318

Motion

Applications for private acts, Mr. Wells; agreed to. 319

First readings

Stacey's Custom Upholstery Limited Act, Bill Pr5, Mr. Robinson. 320
Mildove Mining Company Limited Act, Bill Pr1, Mr. Williams. 320
City of Toronto Act, Bill Pr2, Mr. Renwick. 320
City of Windsor Act, Bill Pr7, Mr. Newman. 320
Polling Places in Residential Buildings Act, Bill 46, Mr. Philip. 320
County of Lambton Act, Bill Pr6, Mr. Brandt. 320
Sioux Petroleums, Limited, Bill Pr3, Mr. Breithaupt. 320

Report

Commissioners of Estate Bills, Clerk of the House. 320

Throne speech debate

Ms. Bryden. 320
Mr. Robinson. 323
Mr. McKessock. 328
Mr. R. F. Johnston. 332
Mr. Shymko. 340
Adjournment. 348

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

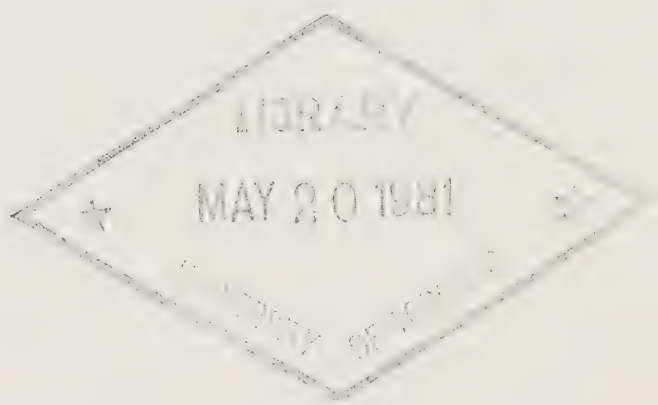
Baetz, Hon. R. C.; Minister of Culture and Recreation (Ottawa West PC)
Barlow, W. W. (Cambridge PC)
Bennett, Hon. C. F.; Minister of Housing (Ottawa South PC)
Bradley, J. J. (St. Catharines L)
Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
Cureatz, S. L.; Deputy Speaker (Durham East PC)
Davis, Hon. W. G.; Premier (Brampton PC)
Eakins, J. F. (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)
Havrot, E. M. (Timiskaming PC)
Henderson, Hon. L. C.; Minister of Agriculture and Food (Lambton PC)
Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
McKessock, R. (Grey L)
McLean, A. K. (Simcoe East PC)
Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
Norton, Hon. K. C.; Minister of the Environment (Kingston and the Islands PC)
Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)
Robinson, A. M. (Scarborough-Ellesmere PC)
Rotenberg, D. (Wilson Heights PC)
Ruprecht, T. (Parkdale L)
Ruston, R. F. (Essex North L)
Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea PC)
Smith, S. L. (Hamilton West L)
Stephenson, Hon. B. M.; Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities (York Mills PC)
Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Timbrell, Hon. D. R.; Minister of Health (Don Mills PC)
Turner, Hon. J. M.; Speaker (Peterborough PC)
Walker, Hon. G. W.; Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Provincial Secretary for Justice (London South PC)
Welch, Hon. R. S.; Minister of Energy (Brock PC)

Ontario

No. 11

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



First Session, Thirty-Second Parliament
Tuesday, May 5, 1981
Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

Hansard subscription price is $15.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Central Purchasing Service, Print Procurement Section, Ministry of Government Services, 8th Floor, Ferguson Block, Parliament Buildings, Toronto M7A 1N3. Phone (416) 965-2238.

Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, May 5, 1981

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

PUBLIC OFFICERS' SECURITIES

An hon. member: The New Democratic Party is boycotting us.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I didn't notice the difference.

Mr. Speaker, I will be pleased to address this statement to members of my own party and to the few Liberal members who are here, in the complete absence of the NDP.

Mr. Sweeney: Look behind you.

Hon. F. S. Miller: No. One never looks behind one when one is a minister.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Even when the ones directly behind are other ministers.

Hon. F. S. Miller: They are the most dangerous kind.

Mr. Speaker, I am filling in time until there are some people present. The Public Officers Act requires that within the first 15 days of every session, I advise this assembly "of all securities furnished on behalf of public officers and of any changes made to securities" since my statement on March 14, 1980. There have been no changes in either category.

Mr. Smith: That's the best statement the minister ever made.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am waiting for questions on that statement, because I think for 28 years we forgot to make it.

IDEA CORPORATION

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, later this afternoon I will be introducing a bill to establish the IDEA Corporation, to promote innovation development for employment advancement. At this point, I want to outline some of the general concepts and the operating principles of the corporation.

It is now well known that scientific research and the application of technological advances can bring substantial benefits to an industrial economy such as ours. In Canada, the United States and elsewhere, studies have demonstrated that research-intensive manufacturing industries with high levels of research and development spending achieve superior performance in employment and productivity growth and price performance.

As the world economy becomes increasingly competitive because of trade liberalization and the rise of the newly industrialized countries, the importance of supporting scientific research and encouraging its utilization will be even greater.

Mr. Cassidy: This is not red Toryism; it is blue socialism.

Hon. F. S. Miller: That is a white shirt, and it is only reflecting the honourable member's philosophy.

Mr. Martel: Then why is the minister moving into it then?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Innovation will be the key to our future economic wellbeing. These are the reasons we stressed research and development in the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development document Building Ontario in the 1980s, released by the Premier (Mr. Davis) in January 1981. The IDEA Corporation is an integral component of the BILD program for reinvigorating industrial development in Ontario.

The IDEA Corporation will bridge the gap between the public and private sectors by linking the tremendous research potential of our excellent public institutions in Ontario with the commercial opportunities and production facilities of the private sector, through a wide range of activities.

The IDEA Corporation will stimulate R and D that has the potential to lead to both innovation and employment, using the facilities of industry, universities or other government agencies. While not itself directly undertaking R and D activity, the IDEA Corporation will foster the development and commercialization of new scientific discoveries.

Mr. Cassidy: This is almost as dramatic as Saul on the road to Damascus.

Hon. Mr. Welch: That's the New Testament.

Hon. F. S. Miller: That's the New Testament? Thank you.

Mr. Cassidy: He became St. Paul. Remember?

Hon. F. S. Miller: The corporation will fulfil an entrepreneurial role as the catalyst for dynamic new activities based on industrial and commercial research in Ontario. The board of directors will be selected from among representatives of industry, labour, universities and government. Using the directors' personal experience and contacts in these sectors, the board will help to integrate research and development efforts among these sectors. It will take an active role in supporting scientific research having industrial and commercial applicability. The IDEA Corporation will link that research with corporations prepared to utilize it. It will actively encourage and support the establishment of joint endeavours; it will unite the various groups involved from the laboratory to the final production process. It will be a catalyst in the creation and co-ordination of joint projects that entail all stages of the development and application of new technology.

As I mentioned a moment ago, in carrying out these responsibilities the corporation will not directly undertake programs of research and development itself. Rather, all such programs are to be conducted through the facilities of industry, other government agencies or universities.

Mr. Cassidy: You know, when you combine blue and red, it is mauve.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The honourable member is colour-blind as well.

This approach will enable the corporation to focus on its entrepreneurial role of stimulating the introduction of technolgical innovation into the actual production process.

In performing this role, the corporation will be authorized to make grants, loans, guarantees or purchase equity. It will be authorized to participate in the ownership, licensing, royalties or use of any industrial property flowing from research and development undertaken by the recipient. In addition, the IDEA Corporation will provide advice to the government on general issues related to the enhancement of technological innovation in Ontario.

We believe that this bold new initiative will make an important and lasting contribution to Ontario's continued economic progress. The IDEA Corporation will report to me as chairman of BILD. Needless to say, I am extremely pleased to play a central role in this exciting new instrument for development in Ontario.

ORAL QUESTIONS

ACID RAIN

Mr. Cassidy: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: Yesterday in the Legislature the member for Kingston and the Islands, the Minister of the Environment, stated that the figures I was using with respect to Ontario Hydro's emissions of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide estimated for 1985 were incorrect.

According to Hydro's own document of January 26, the maximum levels to be fixed for 1985 total 450,000 tons of emissions, as I have stated in this House, and I ask the minister to withdraw his comment.

Mr. McClellan: Resign.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Not that easily.

Mr. Ruston: You're listening today, are you?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Yes. I am listening today.

2:10 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member will recall, at the time he used that figure I believe he also made reference to present levels of emission, where he used the same figure and implied there would be no change in the levels of emission between now and 1985. In that respect, the leader of the third party was incorrect.

If there is confusion, the point at which the confusion arose relates to the statements made by my predecessor and the chairman of Ontario Hydro concurrently, or approximately at the same time.

In my predecessor's statement the sulphur dioxide emissions were broken out from the nitrogen oxide emissions. In the statements by the chairman of Ontario Hydro, the two were combined in terms of all the acid-producing emissions.

The correct figures, ones used by both at that time and still adhered to, are that the average level over the last three years is about 452,000 tons of sulphur dioxide emitted, while the figures for nitrogen oxide are in the range of 65,000 to 70,000 tons; I have forgotten the average figure. By 1985, the figures will be 390,000 tons for sulphur dioxide and 60,000 tons for nitrogen oxide. By 1990, the ceiling will be 260,000 tons for sulphur dioxide and 40,000 tons for nitrogen oxide.

There was, I suggest, an error in the honourable member's figures in that he was either using the wrong base figure or the wrong gross figure for 1985. He was also incorrect in implying that

did not represent any substantial change from present levels of emission. That is clearly incorrect.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The point of privilege was raised, it was answered and there is no other point of privilege.

Mr. Cassidy: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, if I may have a minute of your time.

Mr. Speaker: No, there is no point of privilege. It is out of order.

Mr. Cassidy: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I ask you to look at the information. I ask the minister to withdraw his allegation that what I said was incorrect. He has confirmed what I said was correct and I wish he would say so in this Legislature rather than trying to fog the Legislature with all sorts of other statistics.

Mr. Speaker: You may clarify that point during the question period, at which time you may ask the minister a question.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, in view of the honourable member's statement, I believe I now have a matter of privilege, because this member has implied that I was in some way in error or might have stretched the truth in the Legislature.

Mr. Speaker: You clarified the point very well.

Hon. Mr. Norton: He was incorrect and I will be glad to deal with this in question period or at some other appropriate time.

INTEREST RATES

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a question of the Treasurer. What will the government of Ontario be doing in the face of the highest interest rates in living memory?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, the Premier (Mr. Davis) asked during the election campaign, and I have asked subsequent to that, for a finance ministers' meeting and a first ministers' meeting to discuss what we consider to be critical economic problems in the nation. I have suggested to my colleagues in the provinces that the matter needs to be discussed. I will be glad to review almost all the kinds of questions we had in the late winter session. The fact remains that interest rate policy is a function of the federal government.

Mr. Smith: Since the government produced last spring a discussion paper on interest rate policy which said it was estimated there would be fewer than 20,000 households that might experience affordability problems at rates of 16 per cent, and now that the rates have gone to 17 per cent and higher, can the minister tell us how many households will be experiencing affordability problems if they have to renew their mortgages at present rates and whether the sum total of the response of the government of Ontario in this crisis will be simply to continue to refer to the matter as a federal problem, or will the government of Ontario at some point decide to do something to exercise its responsibility for home owners and small business people as well as farmers in the province?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I have never tried to say that governments cannot affect the inflation rate; indeed they can, as many elements in our economy can.

The fact remains that we can only do so much in this province in contributing to the solution, and that is to diminish inflation, because, as the member knows, an interest rate is simply a symptom of inflation and inflation is the disease.

I would like the honourable member to look at the efforts taken by this government, the very efforts he kept claiming were indications of the weakness of our economy, and the very fact that we have controlled our spending in this province better than any other province in Canada because we honestly believe that we have to keep our requests for borrowing to a minimum so that the money will not be taken out of the society.

The honourable member's friends in Ottawa do not do that and he basically shares their philosophy. He has to basically accept the responsibility for Canada's inflation with them.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: In view of the fact that the government has supported the federal government on the constitutional question down the line, is it not about time that the government of Ontario started to call in its chips with the federal government and insist that there be action now to bring down the spiral of interest rates and to protect consumers and home owners across the province?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I do not disagree.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, can the Treasurer state clearly and unequivocally, so that everyone in Ontario can understand what was the importance of March 19, that in his view the government of Ontario will do absolutely nothing, will suggest absolutely nothing, and will come in no way to the aid of home owners, small businessmen and farmers?

If that is his intention, will he state unequivocally that he intends to sit on his hands in the face of the highest interest rates in history, do nothing for the people of this province and just blame somebody else? If that is what he is going to do, let him just say so clearly.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am not going to sit on my hands. Mr. Premier—Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Riddell: Right on!

Hon. F. S. Miller: I didn't make a Freudian slip; I had a Freudian nightmare.

Mr. Van Horne: The colour of your face matches your shirt.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes. It matches my shirt now. I am embarrassed.

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to be trapped into some of these generalized statements. I have listened to the Leader of the Opposition go around this province telling the world how bad a place this is to live. I have to tell him what we did learn on March 19 was that people did not believe him and they trust us.

Mr. Smith: They trusted you and they are learning quickly now, aren't they?

HOTEL INSPECTION

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, now that the Solicitor General is back from doing his part to weaken our case in front of the Supreme Court, I will ask him a question with respect to the matter of enforcement of fire safety regulations in hotels, licensed and unlicensed.

Does the Solicitor General agree with the comments of the fire marshal, the comments of the two coroners' jury reports that I cited yesterday, the four lawyers testifying at the recent Inn on the Park inquest and a regional manager with the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario, all of whom agree that both licensed and unlicensed hotels should have inspections from one agency of this government rather than the current system of two?

Does the Solicitor General agree that both types of hotels should have the enforcement of fire safety regulations under the fire marshal's office and not a split jurisdiction as it is at the moment?

2:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I have not read the comments the Leader of the Opposition has referred to. Therefore, I am unable to make any detailed response. The fact is, as the Leader of the Opposition appreciates, that the inspectors who are responsible for the inspection of licensed hotel premises are agents of the fire marshal's office. They do receive training in the fire marshal's office; so to that extent they are acting under the aegis of the fire marshal.

Mr. Smith: The Solicitor General said two years ago in this House that he did not see any problem with the split jurisdiction at the present time, but he would talk to the fire marshal about whether there was a problem and pursue the matter. Therefore, surely he must be familiar with this matter now and should know that those who operate under the LLBO, although deputized to the fire marshal, have nothing but a few months of on-the-job training, whereas those who work for the fire marshal directly happen to have—

Hon. Mr. Davis: How many months did you have?

Mr. Smith: The Premier thinks this is quite a hilarious issue.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Not at all.

Mr. Smith: At the moment it is not considered that funny by the relatives of those who have been tragically killed in hotel fires.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I don't think it's humorous at all.

Mr. Smith: The Solicitor General will be aware that those who work for the fire marshal directly have graduated from the Ontario Fire College, have six months of training in various fire departments and on-the-job training in addition. All these experts, including his own fire marshal, have now called for these inspections to be unified under one ministry directly and totally. Will he finally unify it so that licensed and unlicensed hotels are equally inspected by people of equal qualifications in just one central authority?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I have nothing to add. At the conclusion of the inquest that is being wound up in relation to the Inn on the Park fire, I expect to be reviewing the situation with the fire marshal, as we do on a regular basis. There are distinct advantages in having the inspectors who are responsible for licensed premises, who are there on a regular basis, carrying out fire inspections.

I appreciate that there can be valid arguments made on both sides of the issue. At this point I am not yet satisfied that it is in the public interest to combine the inspection services in one ministry, but it is a matter we keep under very constant review.

Mr. Breaugh: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: I want to ask the minister, does it not make common sense to have one standard of training for the inspectors, one reporting agency through his office and one set of regulations applying to all these very serious problems, instead of the hotchpotch we have? Can the minister not give us a simple commitment to work towards that by the end of this session?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, we expect to be reintroducing amendments to the Fire Marshals Act with respect to a uniform fire code. I think this will assist us in reaching that level of fire protection, which I agree is of utmost importance to all the citizens in the province.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, will the Solicitor General not agree there is a serious problem in his statement that the review of the findings of the inquest may or may not result in a change in the regulation and statute when we can recall the same findings coming from the inquest related to the disastrous fire in the New Royal Hotel, Paris, Ontario, in my constituency, about six years ago?

The identical recommendations were made at that time: that the inspection on behalf of the LLBO was inadequate, that the same people were inspecting on the suitability of the entertainment and the flushability of the facilities in the washroom, when their qualifications were nothing more than their support of present and continuing administrations? In that instance as well there were deaths and clear recommendations for an improvement in the inspection.

Now the minister is going to look at it again. Will he not agree that it is intolerable and unacceptable?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, the qualifications of these inspectors are continuously being upgraded. I think people who suggest—I do not think I have anything further to add at this time, because the Leader of the Opposition obviously is not taking it very seriously. He has the nerve to criticize the Premier. Why does he not cut out this supercilious approach he has to every important public issue?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the minister take his seat, please. Order.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

HARLEQUIN ENTERPRISES LIMITED

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, if the Supreme Court justices saw what was happening today with the Attorney General in this House, they might reconsider their justice.

Mr. Speaker: That is not a question.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Industry and Tourism arising out of the fact that Harlequin Enterprises Limited, a Canadian company that publishes Harlequin Romances, is laying off 70 workers in Stratford, Ontario, this week, and is transferring its mail order operations from Stratford to Tempe, in Arizona, a right-to-work state of the United States of America. Given the strong evidence that this shutdown and loss of jobs was unnecessary, what action does the minister intend to take to keep those jobs in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr Speaker, I will be pleased to look into that but, as the honourable member well knows, this government is not in the business of declaring, as he is, that a certain plant closure or a decision by a company to close down operations is not justified. We are not in that business.

Mr. Cassidy: Given the fact that Harlequin in 1979 accounted for three quarters of the $52-million operating profit of its parent company, Torstar, also the publishers of the Toronto Star; given the fact that the Toronto Star has been a leading advocate of economic nationalism here in Canada; and given the fact that the company has been systematically transferring its production from Ontario to the United States, why will the government not accept the need to make companies like this justify shutdowns in Ontario by establishing a job protection board and by putting legislation in place that will protect Ontario workers?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: If the member has certain comments on the activities of the Toronto Star or Torstar and how they carry on business, I say to him to feel free to relay that information to them next time he visits the editorial board.

I can only repeat what I said earlier, that this government is not in the business of reviewing decisions made by companies carrying on business in our economy; companies that currently are employing about 101,000 more people in this province than they were a year ago; companies that are providing, in terms of where Canada is on the unemployment rate, substantially less than the average rate of unemployment for all Canada. We do not believe that it is appropriate for this government to get involved in reviewing decisions made by the private sector.

While I may not agree with all the decisions companies make from time to time, and certainly the honourable member never will agree with the decisions companies make from time to time, I have a lot more faith in their ability to make the right decisions in the long term to build a strong economy here than I do in presuming that some boards sitting somewhere can exercise better judgement and omnipotently say, "No, I don't think that plant should be allowed to close in this province." I just do not think that is the proper view of life, and the experience in every jurisdiction supports that particular view.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Mancini: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker: If the minister feels it should not concern the government whether plants stay open or are closed, why did he bother making a presentation and why did he bother appearing before the select committee on plant shutdowns? Why did the minister not tell us back then that he did not care if these plants stayed open or closed?

Is it the minister's intention now to completely disregard all of the work that had been done by that select committee and just to pretend that plants do not close and that people do not suffer when they lose their jobs?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I attended at that committee for several reasons.

One, we do care on this side of the House.

Two, I was asked to attend before that committee, and I do not have to wait for a subpoena; if a committee wants to see me, I am only too glad to attend.

Third, as the members will recall, the day I appeared at that committee I argued exactly the same case that I have just finished arguing.

Fourth—it was absolutely the same way. The member has been spending a little bit too much time listening to various views in his caucus, which alter from week to week. On this side he will hear the same sort of policies day in and day out. We do not change our story depending on where the latest plant closure is.

Before I sit down, I cannot resist reminding the parties across the floor that it is interesting to note that on occasion companies that are not foreign-owned companies—that is, Canadian-owned companies—also make decisions to close out plants in this province, and that these decisions are almost always based on financial decisions and not on any sense that Canada is somehow a colony of any other jurisdiction.

It is interesting that apparently these same kinds of conclusions are reached from time to time regardless of where the company is owned. It is very interesting.

Mr. Cassidy: Final supplementary, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: No, Mr. Cassidy. Order, please. That was the final supplementary. We have had three supplementaries.

Mr. Cassidy: Two supplementaries, with respect, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: You have had two, the opposition one. A new question, please.

HOUSING PRICES

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I have a new question for the minister of high-priced housing to mark the fact that last month in the Metropolitan Toronto region the price of an average detached home rose beyond the $100,000 mark.

Can the minister explain why it is that for the last two weeks he has been telling this House that people on modest incomes should look outside of the core into the suburbs to find a home that they can afford, yet last Friday he went to the Organization of Small Urban Municipalities (Ontario) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and informed them that "perhaps suburban living will become a luxury that we can no longer afford"?

If the minister maintains that people on average incomes cannot afford to buy a home in the core, and if he tells AMO that, for those same people, living in the suburbs is a luxury they cannot afford, will he kindly tell the House where people on modest incomes should be looking for a house of their own at a price they can afford?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, the opposition have the great opportunity of just reading into a statement all they want and eliminating whatever they want.

My comments were made very clearly on the fact that I thought the development of urban and suburban areas would take place and that some consideration regarding capital costs in those areas had to be given by the local councils. I was cautioning against going into things without having done a complete assessment of the cost of that particular service.

At that time in the speech, if the member looks at it carefully, I did relate to the government's participation in certain programs to assist municipalities in bringing serviced land on at a more realistic price.

Mr. Cassidy: Perhaps the minister can respond to this question: If people cannot afford to move to the suburbs because it is a luxury the minister says they cannot afford, and if people cannot move into the core because the minister admits that housing in the core is out of their reach, then where do families on average incomes look for a house at a price they can afford in today's market?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I guess the member of the third party will find it convenient each and every day to ask a question relating to the price of housing. I have gone through the price of—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Never in my fondest dreams did I wish to imply that there were not some very expensive homes available in the suburban areas of this province; never in my fondest dreams regarding Brampton and various other places. They do have fairly high-class homes which are fairly expensive, but in that same market there also are homes available at reasonable prices and, as I said yesterday and repeat again today, at prices that will be within the range of all income groups in this province.

I want to emphasize again that not everyone in this province is going to wish to own a home and not everyone wants to own property in Ontario or anywhere else for that matter.

Mr. Epp: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Aside from the fact the minister is claiming to be minister of municipal affairs and housing in his press releases even before the ministry has been created—he is a great pretender, I suppose—will he tell us exactly what people in Metropolitan Toronto are supposed to do to overcome the high interest rates and to be able to afford modest homes on their earnings? We have had a lot of words from over there, but the minister has not suggested any government policy to overcome the problems and dilemmas these people are facing.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, I have been accused of not having sufficient inventory for all the people who want to buy homes in this province. Now a member is saying that interest rates are too high and are not allowing people to buy real estate. Surely there seems to be some imbalance in the two comments being made by the opposition parties.

I want to make it clear in answer to the member's remarks relating to interest rates that I concur with the federal minister, who happens to be of the same political stripe as the member asking the question, which happens to be the Liberal Party in Ottawa. Clearly, interest rates are part of the cost of ownership. For any government at the provincial level to try to step in and offer some incentives or reductions in interest rates would be a foolhardy move and one that the economy of this—

Ms. Copps: Abolish the ministry if you can't do anything.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: If the member for Hamilton Centre would take up the habit of listening, she would be okay in this Legislature. She should not try to perform like the former member for St. George. She got into the habit of yelling and shouting and made little or no sense. The member for Hamilton Centre is following very adequately in her footsteps.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: She is better looking.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: The only thing I would say to the member for Hamilton Centre is she is better looking than the former member for St. George. I give her that remark.

Mr. Speaker: The minister will ignore the interjections, please.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I have said clearly we are not going to tamper with the interest rate.

Mr. Speaker: That was the final supplementary. The Minister of the Environment has an answer to a question which was previously asked.

Mr. R.F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: Did I understand the minister to comment that the member for Hamilton Centre is better looking than the previous member for St. George? That kind of sexist comment from over there is totally uncalled for.

Mr. Speaker: That is hardly a point of privilege.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I had already asked the Minister of the Environment to answer a question which was previously asked.

Interjections.

Ms. Copps: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, my name was mentioned.

Mr. Speaker: Order. That was not a point of privilege.

Mr. Hennessy: Back to the kitchen.

Mr. Foulds: How can you rule on this, Mr. Speaker, before you allow her to raise it?

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I do not know what point of privilege the member for Hamilton Centre wishes to raise, but I distinctly heard her name mentioned. She was

referred to in terms of whether her looks were better or otherwise with regard to the former member for St. George. There was a comment from the other end of the Conservative benches about whether she should go back to the kitchen or something of that kind.

Whatever her point of privilege will be, you may wish to rule it out of order once you have heard it, Mr. Speaker, but with the greatest respect I think she should be given an opportunity to express that point.

Mr. Speaker: With all respect, I would just remind the members that this is their question period. Time is running on. The point of privilege was raised and I think dealt with satisfactorily. But if the member for Hamilton Centre has a separate point of privilege or a new point of privilege, I would be willing to hear that.

2:40 p.m.

Ms. Copps: On a new point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I did not hear the second part of that remark but, as my colleague from the New Democratic Party has stated, I feel it is derogatory. I also feel that the first part of his remarks, which speak of the former member for St. George, Mrs. Campbell, in a derogatory fashion, should be withdrawn because she is one of the finest members this House has ever seen.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

The minister had the floor. I did not hear the interjection to which the member refers. Actually, interjections should be ignored anyway, but I would say that was the same point of privilege I had ruled on earlier. Now we will get back to the Minister of the Environment.

RIDGE LANDFILL SITE

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, in my absence on Friday last the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) directed a question to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Ramsay) relating to the operation of the Ridge landfill site in Harwich. As I believe the honourable member is aware, the continued operation of that particular site will be the subject of a full public hearing under the Environmental Protection Act. As a matter of fact, it is expected that the dates for the hearing will be announced later this month.

With respect to the specific concern he raised in the question regarding the quantities of liquid waste received in the Ridge landfill, the information supplied in support of the application for a certificate of approval indicated 15 per cent of the waste as being liquid waste with an estimate—and I repeat estimate—of 8,000 gallons per day, or approximately two million gallons per year.

I would point out that the figure the member used of 3.4 million gallons during the period between August 1, 1979, and July 31, 1980, is a correct figure to the best of my knowledge. But I would further point out that it is obviously impossible during any or all 12-month periods to hold a landfill site to precisely an exact amount. I would point out to him that if he had chosen to use the calendar year of 1980, I believe the amount of liquid waste deposited during that time was just slightly over the two million figure; in fact, it was about 2.3 million gallons. Those fluctuations can readily be explained in terms of the rate of operation of certain industries in that area, for example, the automotive industry and other industries which might create waste which is delivered to that site.

Mr. Smith: It is not supervised.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Of course, it is not a question of not supervising, it is a question of—

Mr. Smith: It's exactly the same for the Upper Ottawa Street site.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker; I will respond to the member for Hamilton West in a moment.

I would also point out to the member who raised the question that even at the high period which he cited in terms of the deposit of liquid waste, the total amount was still well within the 15 per cent figure that had been estimated in the documents that were submitted.

I would further point out that we are currently reviewing the process with a view to issuing certificates of approval with conditions attached, which was not the practice at the time that particular approval was issued. Obviously, it is our commitment to eventually eliminate the carriage of liquid industrial wastes to landfill sites as soon as an alternative can be put in place. To relieve his concern, the site in question is probably the most closely monitored site in the province. There has been no indication in any of the testing that has been done of any contamination in the surrounding area, the surrounding water wells or in the surrounding soil.

Mr. McGuigan: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: in a co-disposal situation such as we have at Harwich, is it not true there is a relationship between the amount of solid waste and the amount of liquid waste? It is based on the fact

that the solid waste absorbs the liquid, and then they put earth cover over it. If the liquid waste far exceeds the amount of solid waste, then free liquids flow out of the side of the earth that has been filled. This has been observed and documented by many of the nearby residents. Does the minister not feel this relationship should be adhered to? This is one of the reasons the people of the area are so mistrustful and resist such proposals as have been made in Harwich and in Cayuga.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I would acknowledge that a shift in that ratio would be a matter of concern. But even during the period the member cites and during the time the volumes reached the level they did, the ratio of liquid waste to solid waste at no time approached the 15 per cent that had been set out in the documentation. It was still well below the 15 per cent; so the ratios were never breached.

SKILL TRAINING

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry and Tourism which refers to the secondary education review which was tabled yesterday and specifically to the point made in it that the task of job training and career preparation ranks very high in public priority. Given the very specific recommendation that school boards be required to establish procedures that would ensure the participation of employers in the development of job-oriented programs, what specific incentive is his ministry proposing in conjunction with the Ministry of Education which would encourage employers in industry to comply with that specific recommendation?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, the task for developing those kinds of policies has fallen to the Ontario Manpower Commission which reports to my colleague the Minister of Labour, to whom the member might wish to direct that question.

Mr. Sweeney: May I redirect the question to the Minister of Labour then?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, would the member repeat the question please?

Mr. Sweeney: The reference is to the secondary education review project that was tabled yesterday. They indicate very clearly that the task of job training and career preparation ranks very high in public priority. They make the specific recommendation that the school boards of the province be required—and I am emphasizing certain words—to establish procedures that would ensure the participation of employers in the development of work-oriented programs. What specific incentives are the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Industry and Tourism working on to encourage employers and industry to enable this to be fulfilled?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, as the member well knows, there are now some 57 industrial training councils throughout the province and the number of apprentices in the employer-sponsored training program increases weekly. In addition, in the economic document published by the government in January, which the member has praised very highly on many occasions during the election campaign, I know, there was a clear commitment by the government to meet with members of industry to determine whether or not there is that kind of commitment to training we require. If not, we intend to get into consultations with our federal colleagues. Failing success in that arena, we will have to proceed on our own.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Sweeney: Supplementary: To respond to a statement in the report, it says within industry there is a reluctance on the part of management to accept students. Now we know that Ontario is one of the few industrial jurisdictions in the western world that does not require its industry to participate in skill training in some way. We know that the Minister of Industry and Tourism signs over a thousand immigration release forms every year to import skilled workers into this country.

This whole project cannot possibly work if the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Industry and Tourism do not provide some kind of incentive or some kind of requirement. What does the minister propose to do? The reply just cannot be more and more, "We are going to look into it." The ministry has been looking into it since 1963. That is 18 years ago. We still do not have that kind of incentive or that kind of requirement in this province.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: There is no question of passing any buck. Anybody who did not understand that there is a problem really has a difficulty. It is an international problem. The member knows that and I know that. But this province, as one of the rare examples of a jurisdiction that is tackling the problem, I think is approaching it very appropriately.

We are going in a variety of directions. We are going through the secondary education review project to try to relate the educational

process to industrial training. The member knows that. We have the employer-sponsored training program, which is very directly involved now with 57 communities. We have the government's firm commitment to get on with the job of meeting with industry and either getting firm commitments or proceeding. I think that is pretty positive action.

CLEANUP OF SPILLS

Mr.Charlton: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment, Mr. Speaker. It is now 14 months since Bill 24, the spills bill, was passed and received royal assent. Can the minister tell us what is delaying the proclamation of that bill and how long we can expect to have to wait before that very important piece of legislation is in place and in operation in this province?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, it is my intention that the honourable member shall not have to wait much longer.

Mr. Charlton: Supplementary: It is our understanding that there has been a fairly substantial lobby by some industries and by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association against the strict liability provisions of that bill. Is the minister prepared to assure us that the intent that was very clearly expressed in this Legislature when that bill was passed will not be weakened by the regulations that are attached to that legislation?

Hon. Mr. Norton: There are very few occasions when there is not some lobbying done by various interest groups when legislation is brought before this House. I can assure the member that the fundamental integrity of the purpose of that legislation will not be compromised.

Ms. Bryden: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: A new question. We have had sufficient supplementaries. The questions are getting repetitive. The minister has given a very clear commitment.

HYDRO RATES

Mr. J. A. Reed: I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister would explain why special nuclear surcharges are being proposed for the 1982 Hydro rates—surcharges that will amount to $1.2 billion by 1990.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, as the honourable member knows, these are the sorts of questions that he no doubt would want to ask when this matter becomes the subject of discussion and consideration by the Ontario Energy Board. The matter is there for him to go through. If he needs any further explanation in his preparation, he can put the questions he has with respect to the Hydro submission on the Notice Paper and I will get him the material he needs to prepare his presentation to the Ontario Energy Board.

Mr. J. A. Reed: Supplementary: Is the minister telling us with that kind of answer that he just does not know the information, that he does not want to know, and that he is not prepared to answer for Ontario Hydro in the Legislature?

Hon. Mr. Welch: No, I did not say any of that. I said if there are particulars the member wants with respect to the Hydro submission, with respect to its rate increase for 1982, which I have referred to the Ontario Energy Board, he need only put it on the Notice Paper or get in touch with Hydro to get the information he requires.

Mr. Sargent: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I made it very clear that was the final supplementary.

Mr. Sargent: There was no supplementary. I want a supplementary to the question.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I said very clearly that was the final supplementary.

Mr. Sargent: Why does the Speaker not allow me one supplementary?

Mr. Speaker: I recognize Mr. Samis with a new question.

Mr. Sargent: I challenge the Speaker's ruling.

Mr. Speaker: I would point out to the member, with all due respect, he cannot do that during the question period. I would suggest he read the yellow book of standing orders. I say that with the greatest of respect. I recognize Mr. Samis.

Mr. Sargent: With the greatest respect, Mr Speaker, I have tried on three occasions—

Mr. Speaker: For the last time I say order. Please sit down. Mr. Samis.

CORNWALL JAIL

Mr. Samis: I have a question of the Minister of Correctional Services, Mr. Speaker. Could he tell the House what action we can expect on the recommendations from the coroner's jury about the need to replace the outdated and overcrowded 150-year-old Cornwall jail as a result of the tragic death of an inmate several months ago?

Hon. Mr. Leluk: Mr. Speaker, any death in our correctional institutions is both regrettable and tragic. I want to say to the honourable member that the staff in my ministry do an excellent job of supervision, taking into consideration that in the 50 institutions we operate we had over 65,000 admissions last year, some of these people being disturbed, anxious and depressed.

This ministry has closed or replaced 20 jails in the past 10 years, and five of these have been in eastern Ontario. As a new minister, I would like to be able to say to the member that I will replace all the older jails, but I think one has to be realistic. We do not have the money to do this. It would be less than honest for me to say to him that I will be replacing the Cornwall jail at this time or in the near future.

Mr. Speaker: A final supplementary from Mr. Samis.

Mr. Sargent: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Sargent on a point of order.

Mr. Sargent: My point of order is this. With all respect, for the past three years the Minister of Energy (Mr. Welch) has never answered one question I have asked him in the House. He is therefore obfuscating. Either he is stupid or he does not know what is going on.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Sargent: The minister never answers any questions.

Mr. Speaker: That is not a point of order.

Mr. Sargent: It is a planned awareness of stupidity.

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary to the minister. Can he give some assurance to the people of the united counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry that since this is the oldest jail in the province outside of L'Orignal and since juries have repeatedly recommended its replacement by a new and modern facility he will give the replacement of this institution top priority within his ministry now that he is there? Second, can he assure us that the other recommendation of the coroner's jury about training for the staff will be implemented as soon as possible?

Hon. Mr. Leluk: Mr. Speaker, taking the second part of that question first, the correctional officers do receive first aid and lifesaving training, I believe, for eight hours. The supervision staff or the senior officers receive 16 hours of training in this area.

As I mentioned earlier, I would like to replace the old institutions under this ministry but the money is not there when one takes into consideration the cost of a new maximum security institution runs over $70,000 per bed. We just do not have that money at the present time.

3 p.m.

ENTRENCHMENT OF LANGUAGE RIGHTS

Mr. Roy: I have a question to the Premier in the absence of the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr. Wells). I wonder if the Premier could advise me as to what sort of contribution his soundly defeated candidate in Ottawa East is going to make to the government. The Premier holds the view that Franco-Ontarians are well treated in this province and that there is no problem. But Omer Deslauriers was quoted in the Globe and Mail on February 28 as saying: "The Indians have their rights. I do not see why Franco-Ontarians should not have some too. After all, we have been here 200 years." What sort of contribution is he going to make in Franco-Ontarian affairs when his views are so different from the Premier's? Is it not a fact that he is benefiting now from the promise made to him to entice him to go and commit political suicide in Ottawa East?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I must say as leader of the Progressive Conservative Party that I was highly honoured that Mr. Deslauriers and 123 other extremely able men and women offered themselves as candidates for our party.

I do not want to get into comparisons. I do not want to continue to fight the election of March 19 but I think the people of this province made a judgement too on the capacity of those men and women who offered themselves as candidates. I think it is fair to state that I was quite aware of the views held by Mr. Deslauriers on some issues before he became a candidate. Unlike the Liberal Party of Ontario which sometimes runs as 125 independent candidates, we do not dictate to our candidates in terms of their personal points of view. So there is nothing inconsistent in having a candidate who expresses a point of view that may not be exactly the same as mine.

If the member is going to get into this issue, Mr. Deslauriers was expressing his support of the entrenchment of section 133 in the constitution. Rather than ask me, the member should do himself a service and debate this with his leader. In the minds of francophones at one point in

history he was in support of section 133, but during the campaign he found some way to say he was not in support of its entrenchment. They are still trying to have it both ways.

Mr. Roy: Supplementary: We know how the Premier gets people to run for him. Is it part of the overall scheme in getting people like Mr. Deslauriers to run to promise him a job like the one he has been given, or maybe better things? Is it part of the scheme as well that not only should Deslauriers have a job with this government but also his wife apparently has a job in the translation services with this government and his former secretary has a job with the government as well? Is that part of what the Premier calls the largess of the Conservative Party here in Ontario?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am not really aware of the activities of Mr. Deslauriers' former secretary. I am not aware of the activities of the member's secretary. I do not go around checking other people's secretaries. I guess the member has a lot of free time.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Premier has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Davis: If the member for Ottawa East wants to keep debating this issue I challenge him, because this is an important, sensitive issue. He should not look across the House at me and challenge me on section 133. I have been consistent and I have not tried to have it both ways as has the leader of the Liberal Party of Ontario. The member should go and debate it with him.

PROTECTION OF ARTEFACTS

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister of Culture and Recreation what steps his ministry is taking to protect the documents, tapes, experiments and artefacts on Whitewater Lake left to his ministry by a deed or gift of articles by Wendell Beckwith.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, I can only give an interim answer. We are looking into it and taking every necessary step to ensure the protection of those papers.

Mr. Foulds: I want to ask the minister to outline the value of the artefacts, buildings and so on that Mr. Beckwith has left to the ministry, whether his top officials recognize their importance and what concrete steps his ministry can take to retain those things for the people of Ontario in view of the steps taken by a Mr. Worth of California, who is claiming to be Mr. Beckwith's partner?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: As I indicated in my first reply, we are taking the necessary steps to ensure those artefacts and papers will remain in this country and will not be going to California.

INCORPORATION OF CITIZENS' GROUPS

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, it seems they have a committee over there called "The committee looking into it."

I have a question for the Attorney General. In view of the Ontario Municipal Board decision of April 23, 1981, in which a group of citizens appealing a decision was not permitted to be heard by the board because it said the group was not incorporated, and in view of the fact the board has permitted appeals in the past by unincorporated citizens' groups as long as the appeal was launched by one person belonging to the group, will the minister undertake to have this situation remedied so citizens' groups can be advised of the board's practice when they appear before it, rather than simply being prohibited from having their appeals heard?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I think most citizens' groups, ratepayers' groups and neighbourhood associations are well aware of the legal requirements with respect to appeals. They have existed for some time to protect all parties. Sometimes an objection is not raised.

As the honourable member has pointed out, there is no requirement that would require a citizens' group or a neighbourhood ratepayers' association to incorporate. But if it does not choose to incorporate, somebody must take the legal responsibility of launching the appeal. It can sometimes incur costs. For example, if it is a frivolous appeal, it may be subjected to costs.

When associations do not incorporate, as the honourable member mentioned a moment ago, at the appeal or the proceeding the application is launched in the names of one or more individuals, because the law has long recognized that an unincorporated body has no legal standing. For people who may be affected, who may be subjected, for example, to unnecessary costs in relation to a frivolous appeal, then there is no one against whom the board can make an order of costs. I think the situation has been the law in this province for some time and, quite frankly, I am not persuaded that it should be changed.

3:10 p.m.

Mr. Epp: In view of the fact that the board on numerous occasions has permitted these groups to be heard and has sometimes applied costs to the group, why does the minister not give direction to the board that these groups should be heard?

The minister is obviously aware of many situations, including one where the Homewood Ratepayers Association was not heard against the Four Seasons development. He is aware of the fact that they went there prepared to make their presentation and they were not being heard. They expected to be heard, based on a number of precedents, a number of times when different associations that were unincorporated were heard.

Why does he not give a directive to the board to hear these groups?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I do not believe the board has ever made an order of costs against an unincorporated organization. That is the best of my knowledge at the present time.

The fact that the board may have allowed the matter to proceed when none of the other parties raised any objection is not surprising. But once a party raises an objection, then I do not think the board has any alternative but to apply the law that has been the law of this province for many years. An unincorporated body does not have legal standing; it is not a legal person.

Ms. Bryden: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Can I ask the Attorney General, does this not mean that in future the opponents in all cases will raise the objection against an unincorporated group and therefore unincorporated groups will not be able to appear before the Ontario Municipal Board?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, as I said a few moments ago, I think the overwhelming majority of ratepayer organizations are well aware of this requirement and if they are unincorporated usually one or more members of the executive or association lend their names to the application. It has not been a significant problem.

FLORIDA LOTS

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. What can he do to help those 952 Ontario residents who bought property in Florida from a thing called Tampa Downs Ranchettes, now called Quail Hollow Estates? These people bought lots in Florida from real estate agents here in Ontario, they have been able to pay taxes and improvement charges on them but nobody has been able to find the lots yet.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, is that a suggestion that we have a select committee to search out the lots?

I suspect that will involve Florida law and Florida problems. To the extent that it involves companies in Ontario selling those lots, we can have our business practices division investigate and determine whether there is some impropriety there.

Mr. Speaker: The time for oral questions has expired.

COMMENTS OF MINISTER

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I am little concerned that what we might have had today was a precedent-setting event in which sexist language was allowed to be used in this House without a reprimand. I request that you look at Hansard to review the comments by the Minister of Housing (Mr. Bennett) in response to the interjection by the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps).

Mr. Speaker: I assure the member I will take that into consideration and I will indeed take a look at it. I am sorry the remark escaped me.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

IDEA CORPORATION ACT

Hon. F. S. Miller moved first reading of Bill 47, An Act to establish a Corporation to promote Innovation Development for Employment Advancement.

Motion agreed to.

MASSEY-FERGUSON LIMITED ACT

Hon. Mr. Grossman moved first reading of Bill 48, An Act respecting Massey-Ferguson Limited.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to authorize the government of Ontario to purchase shares of Massey-Ferguson Limited should we be required to do so under the terms of agreements to be entered into between the company, Massey-Ferguson, and the governments of Ontario and Canada. Under those agreements, the federal and provincial governments may be required to purchase from the holders thereof up to eight million series D preferred shares having a stated value of $25 each. Canada's and Ontario's

liabilities are apportioned at 62.5 per cent and 37.5 per cent respectively, with Ontario's dollar liability limited to an amount not exceeding $78 million. The government guarantees will enable Massey-Ferguson to complete its refinancing package, which totals in excess of $700 million.

FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT

Mr. Foulds moved first reading of Bill 49, An Act to ensure the Regeneration and Reforestation of Forests in Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to require the Ministry of Natural Resources to prepare a forest resource analysis and forest resource program at regular intervals, to assist in ensuring the wise management of forest resources in Ontario.

The bill also makes it a duty of the minister to ensure that the forest resources of Ontario are managed on a sustained yield basis. This bill will be known as the Foulds-Martel bill and is more silviculturally sound than the Martel-Davis amendment of two for one.

BEER IN THE BALL PARK ACT

Mr. Samis moved first reading of Bill 50, An Act respecting the Sale of Beer at the Canadian National Exhibition Stadium.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this stimulating, refreshing bill is to declare the Canadian National Exhibition stadium to be a licensed premises for the sale of beer at games played by the Toronto Blue Jays baseball team.

3:20 p.m.

LONDON BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE AND LONDON BAPTIST SEMINARY ACT

Mr. Sweeney moved first reading of Bill Pr10, an Act to incorporate London Baptist Bible College and London Baptist Seminary.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to incorporate the London Baptist Bible College and London Baptist Seminary as a degree-granting institution in Ontario.

CHANGE OF NAME AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Epp moved first reading of Bill 51, An Act to amend the Change of Name Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to provide additional exemptions from the application of the Change of Name Act. The act currently provides that a woman may change her name without having to make a change-of-name application if she changes her surname to that of her husband upon her marriage or if she adopts her maiden name upon the annulment or dissolution of her marriage. A man who wishes to change his name to that of his wife must make a change-of-name application to a judge under the act.

The effect of the amendment contained in the bill is to permit a man to change his surname to that of his wife without the necessity of bringing a change-of-name application.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Wrye: First of all, as I join this debate I would be remiss if I did not congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your appointment to this very important and challenging position. I am confident you will ably fill the role of Speaker and bring a fair and even-handed approach to all of the business of this House.

In addition, I congratulate all the members who were successful in the election of March 19. The next four years will be difficult ones for this province and for this country, and it will be up to each of us to lead Ontario back to the economic prosperity that we enjoyed in previous years.

It is traditional for a newly elected member in his maiden speech to wax eloquent for a few minutes about the unique history of his area, the beauty of his riding and the cultural diversity of its citizens, but there is no time for such talk today. The county of Essex, the city of Windsor and in particular my own riding of Windsor-Sandwich are caught in the grip of an economic crisis that threatens the viability of our community and the wellbeing of its citizens. It is to that crisis and the government's lack of response that I wish to address myself in the next few minutes.

We have been told during the last few years that this province of ours, this Ontario, is the province of opportunity. It is, to borrow a phrase from the popular song, "a place to stand

and a place to grow." For too long now the people in my community have done most of their standing in an unemployment line, and the most significant thing growing in Windsor-Sandwich is the list of broken homes, broken marriages and broken dreams. Opportunity has turned to despair.

From those on the government side of the House nothing has been offered—nothing in the speech from the throne to help the people of my riding. Indeed, the only response from the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) during the election campaign was that Windsor should pull itself up by its bootstraps. How ridiculous. How insulting. I might add that it was a member of the party who was running for the government in an east-end riding in Windsor who alluded to those comments of the minister and suggested that the minister was, in his words, "an SOB."

It is not that the people of my community do not want to work; in fact, just the opposite is true. Last year more than 20,000 people turned out to apply for 2,000 jobs at the new General Motors transmission plant—20,000 applications for 2,000 jobs. But unemployment is feeding upon itself. The lack of jobs throughout the automotive and auto parts industry has now spread to the service industry, where layoffs and closings have become the order of the day, and in the springtime of 1981 there is no end in sight despite the rosy words of the speech from the throne and the glib talk from the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Grossman) last week when he was answering questions on auto industry layoffs.

It is perhaps ironic that one closing I learned of this past weekend was that of Mario's of Windsor, a restaurant once considered among the best in the city. Each year about this time the owner of that restaurant imported hundreds of tulips from his homeland of Holland as a welcome to spring, a way of giving thanks to Windsorites for our help in the efforts to liberate Holland during the Second World War. This year there will be no tulips at Mario's because, as in so much of my community, there is no real springtime.

Out in the west side of the city, right in the heart of my riding, a large building stands idle. It has just been sold and there will be some minimal employment there, but for hundreds of Bendix workers and hundreds of workers at plants that used to supply Bendix, the beginning of May brings them just one month closer to exhausting their unemployment benefits, one month closer to the welfare line.

During the election campaign, as I walked the streets of my riding, I saw a stark reminder of the depths of despair in the community—not on the faces of some of my constituents, though they are troubled, and not in their voices, though many did talk to me at length of their difficulties. The stark reminder was in the empty homes and apartment buildings where people used to live that now stand unused, because those people have simply given up and left the city, and often they have left the province as well. That is an intolerable situation and the speech from the throne does nothing to redress it, nothing at all.

What can be done? At one level the Ontario government can help out both workers and industry with programs that complement the massive federal effort now under way. Windsor is part of Ontario too, and it is time the provincial government moved in with programs to help the community in its time of need. In addition to directly aiding both workers and business, the province could surely find a meaningful role in helping the municipality. Since they have done nothing yet, let me offer them a few suggestions.

For years now Windsor has been shortchanged on resource equalization grants. Each year this municipality marches down to Queen's Park to demand its fair share so that taxes can be held down and so that services can be increased, and each year Ontario has come up grudgingly with a few more dollars, but it has never been willing to right the wrong that exists. I note the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt) is here in the assembly, and he knows what I am speaking about, because he also has joined in these annual trips down here to see what can be done about this wrong. And it still exists.

Last year Windsor received only one half of the approximately $8 million that was rightfully owing to it. Faced with this inequity, an inequity compounded by the long unemployment crisis that has hit our city, the mayor of Windsor, Bert Weeks, last month wrote to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr. Wells) asking for a meeting to review the whole situation. But the minister, in a letter dated eight days ago, has refused even to give the city officials an audience. He will not even talk to them. He has refused to reconsider what he himself knows to be an injustice that now totals perhaps as much as $60 million. If that arrogant refusal is part of the message of March 19, then Windsor and the rest of the province are in for some very hard times in the next four years.

3:30 p.m.

There are other initiatives the province could take. For example, it could pick up an extra 10 per cent of the cost of welfare once unemployment reaches a certain level for a certain period of time. This would be a very important initiative. Let me give an example again from my own community.

Last year Windsor had budgeted less than $7 million, about seven per cent of its budget, for social assistance. By the end of the year it had spent $8.5 million. This year the figure will probably push well beyond $10 million and could go as high as $12 million. The municipality and the people who live in it cannot afford to pay the 20 per cent share of these added costs without some help. It just is not possible.

In addition, the cost of police and fire protection continues to skyrocket. This year the bill in Windsor will total nearly $20 million. And what has been the provincial response? It has increased the per capita police grant from $10 to $12, pumping all of 400,000 new dollars into the city. Worse, it continues to give municipalities $5 less per person than regional governments, a practice that means $1 million a year less for Windsor than it really deserves. It forces the municipality to further burden the taxpayers, who are already paying among the highest property taxes in Ontario.

I want to say a few words about last week's announcement that doctors in this province will receive an increase of nearly 15 per cent this year, an increase that could mean as much as an extra $12,000 in new income for the average doctor. I have read all the comments about just how far behind the medical profession had fallen in terms of increases in the last few years, and indeed there is some truth to those comments. Certainly doctors in Ontario have fallen somewhat behind their colleagues in the rest of the country.

But I want to make it clear that I believe that this increase, while perhaps justifiable, is a very generous one. Many of the people in my riding do not even make $12,000 a year when they are working. I think an increase of that amount is a very tangible indication that we accept that doctors, given the life-and-death nature of their work, should be among the highest paid and should be the highest-paid profession in the country.

What did the people get for this increase? We needed only one thing: a return to the Ontario health insurance plan by each and every doctor now practising outside that scheme. It is intolerable that patients who pay their taxes, who pay their OHIP premiums, find themselves being presented with an extra bill by some medical practitioners who believe they should be making even more.

First, it places a hardship on people who really cannot afford the extra bill but are too proud to ask their doctors for what some believe is charity. Second, it ultimately provides two levels of medical service: one for the rich, who can afford the extra, and another for the poor, who cannot and will not accept the charity.

There is a very simple solution for a government with a little political courage. It is a solution suggested by my colleague the member for Essex North (Mr. Ruston), and it should have been acted on in this round of negotiations. Doctors should be given a period of time to return to OHIP. Those who do not should then realize that they are on their own, that the patients they see will not be reimbursed by OHIP for any portion of the bill.

I believe such a system would very quickly put an end to the practice of extra billing, which not only attacks the universality of our medicare scheme but also represents an affront to the vast majority of doctors who have remained faithful to the system.

Windsor-Sandwich has been described as a blue-collar, working-class riding, and I am proud to represent an area with such a concentration of men and women whose skills help make Ontario the industrial giant of Canada. But the recent trauma experienced by the automotive industry has shown us a grave deficiency in labour legislation.

I was pleased to see the previous Legislature recognize that deficiency last year by setting up the select committee on plant shutdowns and employee adjustment. I have read much of the testimony before that committee and I urge every member of this assembly to do so. It will show in very graphic terms the real and pressing need for change—change that some may view as radical, especially the Minister of Industry and Tourism, who believes that any change is radical, but which I believe has now been shown to be very realistic. However, I fear there will be no change and no relief.

I want to tell this government that the so-called reality of March 19 was not a mandate to return to the good old days where men and women, thrown out of a job through no fault of their own, were simply ignored by government.

The select committee recognized the need for change. That is why in its interim report—not even its final report which it never got to

present—the committee recommended legislation to establish the standard of one week of severance pay for each year of employment, a recommendation the Minister of Labour (Mr. Elgie) agreed to on behalf of the government. I might point out that the chairman of the select committee is also now a minister of the new government.

In the aftermath of March 19, the commitment has been forgotten as if it never even existed. Now we are warned that we would be destroying the business climate of the province if such radical legislation were introduced. There is nothing radical about protecting a person who, for example, has put 20 years of his life into the same company, who owns a house with a mortgage, who has just bought a new car and is making payments on it, who has a couple of children to clothe and feed. There is nothing radical about giving him 20 weeks of protection from the suffering he will experience if he wakes up one morning to find out his company has shut its doors, he does not have a job any longer and after 20 years he will not be working alongside the same men and women—indeed, will not be working at all until he can find new employment.

I just want to tell the members opposite to think of what it will be like four years from now when many of them find that the people have given them instant unemployment and the rest of them face the psychological impact of moving to the opposite side of the House and watching a new Liberal government in action. Let them think of that.

If severance pay is radical change, then a public justification process for proposed plant closings would put Ontario right into the middle of the revolution. I submit that is exactly what is needed. I say this with regret because many plant closings are justified, but there have been an increasing number of shutdowns which are simply unacceptable. A government, it seems to me, is mandated to protect the interests of all the people, weak and strong, rich and poor. We have seen in some of the recent plant shutdowns that there was no such protection.

The Minister of Industry and Tourism argues that we cannot have legislation requiring such justification because it would provide what he believes to be a disincentive to new investment. I want to say to him—and I hope he reads these comments—that I am growing a little tired of watching Ontario wait for just about every other province and just about every other state to enact some piece of progressive legislation before we timidly put our toe into the same waters. Surely we have enough advantages in Ontario in terms of a skilled labour force, relatively cheap energy and many other attractive incentives that good corporate citizens will not be scared off by the notion that they may actually have to hold talks with the people in their plants and in their community and indeed with the government if for some reason they wish to close their doors.

Let me give an example of one company that, in my opinion, has forced this re-examination upon us. Last year, as thousands of other Windsorites wondered what they would do for jobs in a city where unemployment was nearing 20 per cent, the workers at Bendix Automotive woke up one Friday morning to find out their plant, a facility in A-1 condition, a facility that had made money until just a few months before, would be closed permanently.

Bendix took those jobs, took its money and went back to South Bend, Indiana. It gave the workers the minimum layoff notice possible, and only after hard bargaining was there any decent benefit offer. Then the spokesman for Bendix came before the select committee and bragged that the company had met or exceeded its legal and moral commitments.

3:40 p.m.

I would like to quote briefly a comment made to that committee by Earl Smith, president of Bendix Automotive of Canada because it seems to me that comment, made to the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini), speaks volumes on the need for public justification of such closings. When he was being questioned by the member for Essex South he said, "We feel Ontario and Canada offer companies in the process of completing plant location decisions considerable incentives, not the least of which is a productive and meaningfully motivated work force."

Then he continued: "The potential for the development of restrictive plant closing legislation would represent a significant disincentive to prospective investors and certainly would not be in the best interests of the free enterprise system that has served us so well."

It was not serving the men and women of Bendix Automotive very well at all. That came from a man who had just overseen the shutdown of a viable auto parts operation, throwing another 500 workers on to the street to join 20,000 others looking for jobs. It speaks volumes for the need for legislation.

Finally, there is one further area where I

believe immediate action by this assembly is needed to protect working men and women, but especially working women since they are as a group more unorganized and underpaid. I refer to the need for first-contract arbitration.

The recent history of first-contract negotiations for newly certified unions ought to be enough to point to the desperate need for change. Fleck Manufacturing, Artistic Woodworking and, most recently, Radio Shack, all troublsome labour disputes, make the case for first-contract arbitration as strongly as any words I can use in this assembly today.

Those are not the only incidents. Several years ago workers at the two K-Mart stores in Windsor were organized and began bargaining for a first contract. The fact is that K-Mart had absolutely no intention of bargaining in good faith. When the workers went on strike they simply cut the legs out from under the dispute by turning the two stores into gigantic loss-leader outlets. It was understandable, though regrettable, that thousands of people, some of them trade unionists, crossed that picket line in search of a bargain. First-contract arbitration probably would have changed the whole scenario and prevented the bitterness that exists even today among the workers who had to tolerate that.

I conclude my remarks by saying that I consider it a privilege and an honour to be in this chamber as the representative of the people of Windsor-Sandwich. I believe deeply in the democratic process and I abide by the decision the voters throughout Ontario made a little more than a month ago, although I obviously would have been a little happier were I on the other side of the House—but next time.

I ask those on the other side, whose duty it will be to govern for the next period, to remember their own slogans and songs about keeping the promise. The promise of Ontario can be fulfilled only by a government that is willing to take an activist role in shaping the future of our province. The industrial sector faces very real problems. They will not be solved by a government sitting on the sidelines with no real involvement in the changes necessary to make this decade of the 1980s a decade of real progress for all of the people who make up this great province.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Acting Speaker, like most of the rest of the members, I want to congratulate you on your election to your position and also the Deputy Speaker and the Speaker. From the years I have been associated with the Speaker I have concluded that he is one of the best liked members in this House. I hope somehow or other he will find the balance between being firm, fair and congenial so that after he has served his term he will still maintain that position of being well liked. I am sure he will.

I am pleased to take part in this throne speech debate. The throne speech is a general statement of policy andphilosophy. The comments I am going to make will fit into that pattern as well. I participate in this throne speech in a mood of considerable frustration and perhaps even anger. It is shared to a large extent by my colleagues in this part of the House. If there are three things this party and, for that matter, the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation before us have battled for over the years, they are a high degree of social security; a greater equality in the division of income and standard of living among the people in our society; and the implementation of economic planning and economic strategy to provide full employment to utilize fully our productive capacity and human resources in this province and nation.

Some of us who have been around for a while witnessed some real progress in these areas. When I say around for a while I mean in this province, not in this House, particularly in the two or three decades following the Second World War. Since about 1975 there has been a reversal and, unfortunately, the pace of that reversal has been accelerating, particularly in this province and by this province.

The throne speech which we are now debating indicates that reversal to a lesser degree of security and to a greater inequality will continue unabated. It is shameful, inexcusable and contrary to all moral and ethical principles. Let there be no mistake about it. These cutbacks in social security and the widening of the gap between rich and poor are the deliberate and conscious policy of the Tory government across the House from us. The economic stagnation is really due to the same kind of philosophy, giving a free hand to the wealthy and powerful to make economic decisions in their own interests, whether or not it is good for Ontario.

I want to refer to two documents relating to this widening gap. The first is called The Report of the Special Program Review, perhaps more commonly known as the Maxwell Henderson report, tabled in November 1975. That report expressed the philosophy of the Tory government. Those of us who have been here for a while know the architect of it, although it is

called the Henderson report, was Darcy McKeough who was chairman of the committee which produced that document.

It recommends as one of its first recommendations that the expenditures of the Ontario government as a percentage of the gross provincial product should decline. It states that the program outlined in the document would save something like $3.5 billion for the people of Ontario in the first two years. That sounds commendable on the surface, but if we go a bit further and find out the recommendations it was making to bring about that saving, it certainly brings into question the wisdom of what they were doing and sets the stage for the cutback in social security and the widening gap in the standard of living.

For instance, the committee recommends that: "The province make it clear to all agencies receiving taxpayer support that they cannot expect provincial assistance to offset inflationary wage settlements." One can read there of such things as the agencies for the mentally retarded which are still paying many of their workers in the neighborhood of $4, $4.50 and $5 an hour.

It also recommends in the report that: "The level of government support be gradually adjusted over a period of several years so as to allow an increase in the proportion of university and college costs covered by tuition fees." It goes on to recommend that: "The province's support for part-time general interest courses in colleges of applied arts and technology be phased out so as to put them on a full cost-recovery basis and the colleges be encouraged to direct their efforts towards providing vocational and technical training of the highest calibre." It suggests phasing out many of the courses in our colleges.

3:50 p.m.

It recommends that: "Consideration be given to phasing out surplus beds and expensive treatment facilities in some hospitals, particularly those in or adjacent to urban centres" and that: "There be a thorough examination of public hospital operating costs with particular concentration on ways of reducing the total paid hours of hospital staff." Of course, we know many of those recommendations have been carried out.

That philosophy of the government goes much further than that. It also has a section in it with suggestions for operating existing programs more efficiently. It says to limit spending to programs that meet the needs of the whole population. On the surface, that doesn't sound too bad, but listen to this next one.

In 1975 the government of this province said medical insurance should be returned to the private sector through Physicians' Services Incorporated, Blue Cross and similar plans. That is the philosophy of the government. They would offer fewer subject options in high schools, discontinue all grants for arts, ethnic culture and sports programs, recover total cost of parks, day care centres and similar facilities through user charges, but would not establish a provincial dental care plan or finance it through the Ontario lotteries.

Finally there is this classic, namely, that welfare parents should be sterilized or permanently excluded from the welfare system. That is a document of the Ontario government in 1975. Shortly after that document was published, two things happened. The government brought out a white paper on it which adopted the general philosophy of it but dissociated itself from some of the more reactionary recommendations. In fact, they were pretty well all reactionary.

The second thing that happened was that all of these books fell apart. Although the book fell apart, that program of the Tory government is largely intact and would set the stage for what is happening in this province today in the cutbacks and in the widening gap between the poor and the well-to-do. Darcy McKeough still rides on in this House.

The second report I want to refer to is that which was published in the paper during the election campaign and was published by the Ontario Welfare Council and the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto. They had done a survey of the situation in the province with regard to those on low income, particularly those on family benefits and on welfare. Let me read something of what it says. It starts right out by saying that provincial spending restraints have been carried out largely at the expense of the poor. This is as a result of a deliberate attempt by the government of Ontario to restrain government spending at the expense of those most needy and least able to protect themselves.

It goes on to say increases in Ontario social assistance rates have been sporadic and far below increases in the cost of living. The seven per cent increase in assistance rates announced last year by the Minister of Community and Social Services still leaves most welfare recipients with 13 to 22 per cent less in real income than they had in 1975 when this document waspublished and became the bible of the Tory

government of Ontario. For two decades Ontario's social assistance program has kept welfare recipients poor. Since 1975 the poor have become poorer.

In 1980 a mother of three children had an income of $7,718 on family benefits. This was 31.7 per cent below the Statistics Canada poverty line. A single disabled person on general welfare assistance had an income of $2,892 or 44.7 per cent below the poverty line. There are tables in here which I think every member of this House should see and which I suggest should be compulsory reading at least for those members across on the other side. They show the dramatic drop in real income to the people on family allowance and welfare assistance.

It is not only welfare recipients and those on family benefits whose lot is worsening. It is really everyone on the low end of the income scale. If one checks minimum wages—and there are at least 200,000 people, I believe, on the minimum wage in this province—the minimum wage in May1975 was $2.40 five years ago; now it is $3.30. That is up 38 per cent in those five years. But do members know how much the cost of living has gone up in those five years? It has gone up from 134 points to 228 points. That is up 70 per cent. Simple mathematics show, therefore, that the people who are on the minimum wage in this province have had a reduction in their standard of living of 32 per cent since 1975 through the conscious policy of the Conservative government of this province.

Incidentally, during the last five years for which figures are available profits have gone up from $11.5 billion to $23 billion. That was a 100 per-cent increase in the profits of the corporations in this nation. If we had the figures available for 1979 and for 1980, we would find that it would be up in the neighbourhood of a 150 per-cent increase during the last five years, while those on the minimum wage have had a reduction in their real standard of living of some 32 per cent.

But much worse than those statistics indicate are certain other factors connected to this. Low-income earners spend a higher percentage of their income on food, double that of those in the $25,000-income range. That has gone up much faster than the average increase in the cost of living.

Another factor we forget all the time too is that the cost of living does not go up in percentages; the cost of living goes up in dollars and cents. When the doctors are given a 14.7 per cent increase, they are going to get $12,000 a year. But if one gave the same percentage to the people in the lower-income groups, they still would be much worse off because the cost of living goes up in dollars and cents, not in percentages. It is the dollars that really count.

Their worsening situation over the last five years—and this could be documented in many other ways—has been aggravated by extra charges by hospitals and by property tax credits which have not been increased. Oh, yes, there has been some increase to the senior citizens, but all those others on the basic wage have had no increase, and so the percentage of the property tax they have paid has gone up dramatically. An increase in OHIP premiums has taken place in those five years, and a further increase is likely going to be imposed on the people of this province again this year through the budget.

I say that this is a serious condemnation of our Canadian society. Although some provinces, particularly Saskatchewan—which incidentally has a welfare rate for a family of four about $100 higher than ours and has a supplement program for low-income workers that would be a model for any place, and which that government over there should study; it wouldn't make much difference whether they studied it or not, they wouldn't implement it—have dealt fairly with those on low income, generally speaking what has happened in this nation is a condemnation of our society. When things are tough, largely through the government's own fault, they put it on the backs of the low-income earners.

Because Ontario is one of the wealthier provinces, because Ontario is where the gap has widened the greatest and because it is a conscious and deliberate policy of this government it deserves the greatest condemnation of all.

We in this party know—and sometimes those across the way don't always give us credit for this—that all social security programs and assistance programs have to be borne by the gross national product or the gross provincial product. We also know our gross provincial product is faltering, largely through the fault of the economic policies of this government. But, I repeat, it is inhuman to make the poorest in our society bear the burden for our failing economic policies and the government's deliberate restraint programs.

4 p.m.

This government can be characterized not only as one that has deliberately widened the gap, but one that will not alter the power structure nor intervene in the economy to protect the public good. This is really what

separates this party from the Tories across the floor and, for that matter, separates us from the Liberals here on the right as well.

Mr. Roy: I will tell the member what separates us—about 15 seats.

Mr. Swart: I see the member for Ottawa East is here. Fifteen seats separate us, but the separation in philosophy between the Liberals and the government cannot be measured because it is so minimal. The people over there and the Liberals to the right are prepared to leave all the major economic decisions to the corporate giants in our society, mostly multinationals, whose interest in Canada and this province is predominantly what they can get out of it. By contrast, this party would ensure that those economic decisions are made on the basis of what is good for our society, what is good for employment and what is good for production. It is on this issue more than any other than we in this party separate from the Liberals and the Conservatives.

That issue was clearly put in the interim report of the plant shutdown committee which was read into the record of the House by the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie). The committee made it abundantly clear that a decision had to be made.

It said: "It is clear from the cases studied by the committee that the decision to close has been a company monopoly. The decision is not only a head office decision but in branch plants one which is made with little input from Canadian management. It is equally clear in these cases that the unions representing the workers had no influence in terms of the closure decision. The union's role was reduced to that of trying to negotiate the best possible settlement after the fact."

The report then goes on to state, and I think this is the important paragraph in this section of the report on plant closures in Ontario: "These conclusions clearly indicate questions which must now be addressed by the committee. Should government take a role in the decision-making process prior to plant closures and should protection be offered to workers and the communities affected if a closure must proceed?"

We have today in this House the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Grossman) standing up and giving an answer which he would not have given a year ago, but now they have got a majority he will give it. He said, "The government doesn't intend to get into the business of reviewing decisions by companies that shut down their plants." They totally opt out on any of the decision-making processes, any of the economic decisions that are going to affect the welfare of the people of this province and the nation. They totally take a hands-off attitude.

The same is true of interest rates. We have the front-bench cabinet ministers including the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller), standing up to criticize the interest rates and saying the federal government has the responsibility. But not once do they make a suggestion that the federal government should intervene, use the power it has with the Bank of Canada and force those interest rates down. They never do that, and neither do the Liberals here on our right. They do not believe in interfering in the economy to protect the welfare of the citizens.

I doubt if there is a person in this House who has done a careful examination, or even a cursory examination, of the interest rate situation who would not say that it was good for Canada to force down those interest rates. They realize that, but they do not do it because it means intervention and they are not prepared to intervene.

Mr. Martel: Unless it is a way to give some money away.

Mr. Swart: Oh, yes. I will come to that in a minute. Of course, if it is a case of giving money away, they will intervene. But they will not intervene in the decision-making process to protect the public; they leave that decision with the giant corporations who make it on the basis of what is good for them or what is good for the parent corporations in the United States. In effect, our government is saying: "To hell with the people of Ontario. We are not going to interfere to protect them even if those decisions do hurt them"—and they do.

Another area I want to cover before I conclude is the refusal of this government not only to intervene in the decision-making process but also to interfere in any way in the escalating crisis of inflation in this province and this nation. In the first part of the throne speech, the government said there should be a federal conference to deal with inflation. They want the Prime Minister of Canada to convene a conference of the first ministers to deal with this matter. Yet this government refuses to use any of the power it has itself to deal with matters of inflation, which of course is rising prices.

There is simply no social responsibility required by this government of the corporations in setting of consumer prices. The throne speech said the problem of inflation must be faced in a

comprehensive way on a national front without delay. Everyone knows inflation is a major problem, and this government refuses to use any of the power it has. In making those kinds of statements in the throne speech, the government is really mouthing hollow rhetoric.

An example of this is the matter of the ripoff by the major oil companies of the consumers of this nation. On March 4, during the election campaign, we all saw headlines in the paper for two or three days about the oil companies pocketing $12 billion that they should never have got because of collusion in setting prices. The report stated: "That means every man, woman and child in Canada would have been bilked of $2,500." To put it another way, $12 billion would have paid the salaries of 600,000 families earning $20,000 annually.

The report goes on to say: "It was decided a conviction was unlikely under existing combines legislation which the government has been attempting to strengthen for the same 10-year period." There is all kinds of other documentation showing that, in trying to strengthen that, the corporations opposed it and they backed off.

The point I want to make is that last fall, Mr. Ouellet, the federal Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, called a conference of the consumer ministers of all 10 provinces to take place in Regina. The first item on the agenda was to strengthen the combines legislation. What was the reaction of the Ontario Minister of Consumer and Corporate Relations (Mr. Drea) at that time? He did not bother going to that conference. He indicated in the House he knew it was on, but he was totally indifferent to it.

The combines legislation at the present time is so weak that the oil companies have ripped off Canadian consumers to the tune of $12 billion. I see the present Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Walker) is in the House, and I hope he will take a different kind of attitude to that combines legislation and any conferences that are called to deal with and strengthen that combines legislation.

4:10 p.m.

The second point is that this government itself refuses to investigate excessive pricing even where prima facie evidence is brought to it. The member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) and myself, a year ago last December, made quite an issue in the estimates of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations about what power the Ontario government had and whether it had power to do something about retail prices.

The end result was that, because we had minority government, we forced the minister to get a statement from the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) on what power they had. I just want to read the last paragraph with regard to retail prices. The conclusion says this:

"So long as it does not purport to regulate interprovincial or international trade or conflict with valid federal legislation in relation to the same matter, it would be within the competence of the Legislative Assembly to authorize the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations to regulate, control or roll back prices in the province of Ontario."

There is no question that this government has the power on that. Yet the minister, after I have repeatedly documented instances in various commodities of unreasonable and unjustified price increases, either has refused even to comment on it or has defended the companies that raised those prices.

Whether this Tory government actually believes it or whether it is part of the Tory smokescreen to shield its corporate friends, it tells the world that competition will protect the consumer. If they actually see it that way, and that is possible with their private enterprise blinkers, they are living in a dream world of the past. The concentration, the near monopoly, has interfered with that protection from competition and has caused consumers to pay too much for many of the commodities that they have to buy.

I have an article here from the Washington Post—I have much more than the article; I have other documentation on it—and I want to read the first part of this. It says:

"American consumers are probably paying more than $16 billion a year in overcharges on food because of industry concentration, the agriculture department said yesterday." This is dated May 6, 1980.

"Department economists explain that the overcharges partly go into profits for the companies and partly result from higher costs for such promotional activities as advertising which have been spawned by major food conglomerates and are passed on to consumers.

"In 1975, the total spent on food advertising was $4.1 billion, most of it for television, radio, magazines and newspapers, the department said. The department's chief economist, Howard W. Jordan, told a House small business committee that in 1975 at least $10 billion and

possibly as much as $15 billion was lost by consumers due to monopoly in the United States food manufacturing industry."

I suggest that too should be compulsory reading for the members on the opposite side of the House and to my right, who say that somehow or other competition will protect the consumers and provide a reasonable price.

In this province we have fewer food processors than they do in the United States, but we have even more monopoly and neither the provincial government nor the federal government has even bothered looking into the situation in this nation and in this province.

On the same basis as they found in the United States—and, incidentally, they are taking action under the antitrust legislation against some of these corporations—we are being charged $400 a year per family too much for our food in this nation because of monopoly concentration.

The second reason the government needs to get into some price protection and some investigation and to give itself power to deal with unjustified price increases is that most of our processors and manufacturers here are multinationals. Something like 65 per cent of our manufacturers are multinationals. And it is their policy, which I have documented over and over again, to add the Canadian-US dollar differential at 17 cents, or whatever it may be, to the Canadian price of their products even though they are totally produced here from Canadian materials.

The forest products industry is the classic example. Most of these companies produce two or three of these different forest products in their mills. Newsprint is sold here at C$470 a metric ton; it is going up to $500. It is sold in the United States at US $470 a metric ton. It is produced here and sold here at that price. But when we come to lumber, which is produced by the same companies, we find that it is sold in the United States at $200 for 1,000 feet of two-by-fours, but here it sells at $240 a 1,000 feet—something that is produced here.

When we come to the fine grades, such as bathroom tissues, not only do they add the United States-Canadian dollar differential, which is 17 or 22 per cent depending on the way it is computed, but also they add an import duty to it; so we pay 35 to 40 per cent more for products such as toilet tissue. These are made in this country, the majority of them by multinational corporations. And they even sell them cheaper in the United States than they do in this country.

Why do they not charge the US-dollar value for newsprint? I suggest it is because the big newspapers have enough clout they do not dare charge that artificial price. But when it comes to such things as lumber, bathroom tissue, Kleenex or those things where the little consumer is involved, they charge United States dollars; and if there happens to be an import duty, they charge that, even though it is made in this country.

There is every reason why this government should be using the power it has to investigate and when it finds that prices are unreasonable to order them held or rolled back. The competitive system is just not protecting the consumer in this province.

The third reason we need government to investigate is the excessive advertising that is done by the supermarkets in this nation. Believe me, it has escalated tremendously during the last few years. I have here the supplements from last Wednesday's Toronto Star. There are 28 pages in these supermarket supplements, and there are another 12 pages, for a total of 40 pages in the Toronto Star—coloured pages, expensive advertising. And the cost of that, of course, is passed on to the consumer. In fact, the advertising on one day in the Toronto Star, one news medium, is about $300,000, which cost is passed on to the consumer.

Loblaws alone has a contract with the Star for $2 million—just one newspaper and one supermarket. That comes to a dollar for every person living in the greater Toronto area. Adding it all up, a family in the city is paying between $50 and $100 a year for that excessive advertising.

The federal government had the courage to intervene a number of years ago when they wanted to bring in the food stamps. The member for York South (Mr. MacDonald) may have been here at the time when the federal government introduced that legislation. I know it was debated in this House, because it was going to be passed on to the consumer.

The day has arrived when the government of this province and the government of this nation should intervene in this kind of excessive advertising for which consumers have to pay.

4:20 p.m.

It is not just a case of trying to inform the public about the prices in the stores. That can be done with advertisements one fifth that size. It is a case of the giant supermarket trying, through this loud shouting and advertising, to entice people into the store instead of using price competition, which should really be the case with regard to consumer items.

These three theoretical reasons justify intervention by the Ontario government.

I am not going to read them, but I have here investigations that have been done into such things as bread and into such things as milk, where the farmer has to justify every penny he gets. The dairies can raise the prices as they see fit. Talking about monopoly control, the number of dairies in the last 10 years has been reduced from 167 to 52. That is the reduction and that is the progress of a monopoly.

Prestone is perhaps the classic example. Only two companies make it in Canada. It has gone up 75 per cent, double what is charged for it in the United States. Take such things as salt, where we have only two companies providing that product in this province. I could go on and on with those items, but I do not intend to do that at this time.

We need government intervention. For this, I have presented a proposal for a fair prices commission to this House which would implement the power the Ontario government constitutionally has, on an ad hoc basis, to investigate prices and to order them held or rolled back where they are unjustified.

I have introduced a bill for a public advocate where an ombudsman, in a sense, would represent the consumers at rate hearings, whether for Bell Canada, natural gas or hydro, and give some adequate protection to them.

I have introduced a bill for an insurance rating board which would make the insurance companies justify their tremendous increases in rates, whether for auto insurance or fire insurance.

Finally, I have introduced a bill that would require that tags be kept on, that supermarkets be prevented from ripping off tags from the stock on the shelves as they did with peanut butter. It is standard practice now throughout the industry to put new tags on products that were bought at old prices.

Because we need measures to ensure that the economy is operating in the public interest, that there is fair sharing, that there is a high degree of social security, we in this party will keep fighting the battle until we become the government—and we are going to—until that government is forced, even before that time, to introduce some of this legislation.

The back row of that party has received a lot of attention during the throne speech from this side of the House, and rightly so. They are new members. Let me congratulate them. Let me say to them they got here the easy way. Most of them were elected the first time they ran; perhaps not all, but the majority of them were.

I want to tell them it took me eight times to get here over 25 years. Perhaps I hold some kind of record.

They have joined the status quo. They have joined a comfortable majority. Let me tell them something. They really are not going to accomplish anything over there. They are not going to make any beneficial impact at all on our society.

History shows it is the minorities that popularize and bring about improvements in our society. They have fought the battle for fair treatment and a humane and just society, often against popular opinion and at their own political peril. They are the ones that brought about, over the course of decades and centuries, the abolition of child labour, the elimination of slavery, the right of workers to organize, the first old age pension, unemployment insurance, health insurance, rights for women and, in places like Saskatchewan and Sweden, the use of resources for the public good and not just the making of wealth for the privileged few.

Make no mistake about it: When the history of this nation is written, it will be the Woodsworths, the Coldwells, the Douglases, the Don MacDonalds, the Lewises and, yes, the Cassidys who will be credited with the social and economic reforms. So I am proud to be a part of this team, to hold my head up high and to say the future of this province belongs to us, not you.

Mr. Stevenson: Mr. Speaker, I regard it as a great honour and a privilege to have the opportunity to speak to the Legislature and join in the debate on the speech from the throne. The speech that opened this session of the Legislature was most comprehensive. I believe this province is fortunate in having a government so well equipped to deal with the problems facing us today during 1980 and over the next five years and beyond.

Before I begin my remarks, Mr. Speaker, I wish to join with my colleagues in the House and in the caucus in congratulating you on your appointment. The job of Speaker is a difficult one and, as a freshman member of this Legislature, I appreciate the difficulties that you face every day as you take your place in this Legislature.

I would like to take this opportunity as well to thank the people of Durham-York for the splendid support they gave me on March 19. That contest was my first experience in electoral politics, and I was able to pass the test by winning the riding. Now I realize that I face even greater responsibility in providing good representation for the people of Durham-York.

I wish also to express my sincere appreciation for my predecessor, Mr. Bill Newman. Bill is well known to the members of this House and has provided leadership in Ontario in the areas while he served as Minister of Agriculture and Food and Minister of the Environment. He is also well known and well respected in Durham-York, where he started many years ago at the municipal level.

Some of the members here may also remember another predecessor of mine, Dr. Matthew Dymond, who represented Durham-York many years ago. His frequent claim to being just a simple family doctor did not obscure the tremendous contribution that he made to Ontario as a provincial cabinet minister.

It is my intention to do my best to live up to the fine tradition of these two former members, and I will do all that I can to work for the benefit of Durham-York within a stronger and more vigorous Ontario. Having heard the progressive plans of this government as outlined in the throne speech, I am sure that this goal is within grasp.

The riding of Durham-York is unlike many in this province, because it has no distinct urban centre. It is not a riding like that of the Speaker's, which is dominated by a large town or city. Durham-York is a rural riding. In some areas it is blessed with a balanced growth through the attraction of manufacturing and recreational industries.

Physically, Durham-York is a large riding. If it were set down near the city of Toronto it would stretch from Yonge Street to the eastern boundary of Oshawa. Obviously, such a large area of land presents difficulties for government. Services have to be co-ordinated across a wide area, adequate transportation provided and the growth of the various communities within its boundaries made as complementary as possible.

As I said earlier, there is no large urban centre to dominate or direct the activities of Durham-York. Each region in the riding is under the influence of centres that lie outside the riding's boundaries. Many residents of my riding commute every day to Newmarket, Oshawa and Toronto. Local entrepreneurs centre their activities in the communities dotted throughout the riding in, for example, Port Perry, Uxbridge, Holland Landing, Sutton, Beaverton and many others.

We also have several areas of excellent farming communities. These farming communities produce meat, grain, fruit and vegetables that appear on the dinner tables in this city and throughout Ontario. There is manufacturing in Durham-York as well. The small industries located in the centres sprinkled throughout Durham-York give a significant boost to the local economy. They provide jobs, revenue and impetus for many Durham-York communities.

4:30 p.m.

I am pleased to say that industry in my riding has received support from this government. In Cannington, for example, an Ontario business improvement loan was made to Sullivan Strong Scott Limited, which will result in 42 new jobs over the next five years.

Again, in Port Perry, Comco Metal and Plastic Industries Limited has received support under the same program, and this support should result in 100 new positions over the next five years.

This kind of support is important to areas like Durham-York. The incentive to grow strengthens our community and acts as a catalyst to attract further growth to our region. It is my hope that Durham-York industries will continue to receive similar support to that which I have described.

Recreation is another industry that Durham-York has to offer. It may come as a surprise to many members here, but my land-locked riding has a considerable amount of waterfront property. Lakes Simcoe and Scucog present great potential for all forms of recreation. It is my hope that the potential of this resource will be recognized and developed over the next few years, and I will say more about that later.

Because of its size and diversity, Durham-York has a variety of needs. Many of these needs it shares with other areas of Ontario; some are unique to certain parts of Durham-York alone.

The proposal in the speech from the throne of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program and the commitment made by the Premier (Mr. Davis) and the cabinet throughout the recent campaign filled me with optimism. This government recognizes what needs to be done to keep Ontario strong throughout the 1980s and to strengthen the infrastructure of communities and services that will attract and sustain further growth.

As I mentioned earlier, transportation is a priority for Durham-York. This past week we have seen the excellent final report of the Task Force on Provincial Rail Policy. I congratulate my colleague the member for St. David (Mrs.

Scrivener) for the thorough and thoughful analysis she made of the rail situation in Ontario and her suggestions for possible improvement.

However, roads are what keep my riding humming. Radial roads connecting the many small communities of the riding with the larger cities and the great concentrations of Newmarket, Oshawa and Toronto are of the utmost importance for the economy of the area. During the election, I was pleased to see that this government intends to continue the expansion of the radial roads system in the Metro Toronto area. I am pleased today that this commitment has been honoured by the throne speech.

I and many of my constituents are watching with intense interest the environmental hearings on the extension of Highway 89, east from Highway 400, across the Holland River, to Highway 12, north of Sunderland. Let me assure the Legislature of the need for this highway. The area it will serve has a variety of agricultural, recreational, industrial and commercial resources, and all resources require servicing by excellent roads. The present road system through this particular area means it is almost impossible to conduct business to the potential that this area can achieve.

Not only will this highway serve the local region, but also it will be of benefit to central Ontario as a whole. Highway 89 will provide a direct link between the Georgian Bay and Lake Huron area with the Kawartha Lakes district. Recreation and business in both areas is bound to improve with the construction of this highway.

In addition, Highway 89 intersects all major north-south roads between Toronto and the Lake Simcoe area. All those who know central Ontario and the Durham-York area well, recognize the necessary for extending Highway 89. Its need and rationale are evident.

I believe the environmental assessment report published by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications to be more than satisfactory. I believe there will be no significant environmental impact resulting from the construction of this important highway.

I strongly support the construction of this road. I know my views are shared by other MPPs from the area who also happen to be colleagues in the government caucus. My colleagues and I have expressed our support to the Minister of Transportaton and Communications (Mr. Snow) and look forward to the completion of the environmental hearings.

The communities of Durham-York have great potential for growth but they need our services and incentives to attract growth. I am pleased that this government will continue to provide support for communities to modernize their sewer and water systems. These services are mandatory if any community is serious about expansion. Both industrial and residential growth require modern sewer and water systems. At present, growth in these services is near a standstill in Durham-York. Indeed, there is one community that may have to stop construction of services when the job is only partially completed. The reason for this standstill is the position of the federal government. Ottawa has decided to cancel its community service program. The federal Minister of Public Works, Paul Cosgrove, has said there will be no additional funds from Ottawa to support these projects.

More funds are needed to support the development of services in our community. Serviced communities are stronger communities and stronger communities lend their strength to the overall health of the province and the nation. This government's commitment to continue for the growth and strengthening of our communities is a beacon of hope for many centres in Durham-York and all around Ontario. I look forward to action in this area from the province and I hope the example we set in Ontario will persuade Ottawa to change its negative stance and support growth at the community level.

The Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program is a remarkable document. It provides a co-ordinated picture of growth in every region and industrial sector of Ontario. Speeches were made throughout the recent campaign outlining its various proposals and the beneficial effects it will have on our province. As the results of the vote on March 19 demonstrated, BILD does indeed have something for everyone. It is a thoughtful, thorough and progressive document for development in Ontario.

My background is that of farming and research. I have taught agriculture at the Ontario Agricultural College and have been involved in research at the University of Guelph. My interests, therefore, lie in research and development as well as agriculture. Research and development is a priority in the BILD program. This kind of activity has kept Ontario in the forefront of world trends, and is even more necessary now in the competitive world of the eighties than it was a decade ago.

Fundamentally, our world is undergoing great

technological change. In several fields Ontario has the opportunity to become a world leader. These opportunities must be seized. The programs proposed in BILD and endorsed in the speech from the throne will go a long way to ensuring that Ontario remains a world leader. One program that impresses me is the IDEA Corporation. IDEA will promote the development of new technologies in Ontario. Its work will increase the supply of skilled manpower and speed the application of the latest technology in industry.

What impresses me most about IDEA, however, is its mandate to co-ordinate the activity of new research centres as well as to monitor and evaluate the programs of industrial research and development throughout the province. In addition, IDEA will also act to initiate research in areas of critical concern. I am in support of greater co-operation in research in Ontario. In the agricultural sector, I am pleased to say, this is already a fact. As a researcher at the University of Guelph I saw the harmonious co-operation between an academic research facility and agribusiness. This relationship worked well and has been working for many years.

I am certain IDEA will ensure that Ontario industry in all sectors is sensitive to technological change and aware of new techniques of production. The result of this effort will be more efficient industry, increased employment and more prosperous, thriving communities.

4:40 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker: Possibly the member should wet his whistle. I know the member for York South is waiting in anticipation of the conclusion of your remarks. Are you not waiting in great anticipation of the conclusion? I am sorry. I thought you were.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I do not think you have any capacity to read my mind and in this instance you are wrong.

Mr. Stevenson: BILD also has proposed a new centre to research auto parts and auto parts technology. This commitment is welcome news to Durham-York. Many residents in my riding work in Oshawa, the centre of General Motors activity in this province. The health of the automotive industry in this country and on the continent as a whole is of great concern to these people.

In addition, there are several auto parts manufacturing plants located in my riding. These plants provide local employment and are helping the growth of communities in the riding. Many other residents are affected indirectly by cycles in this important industry. The BILD proposal to erect an auto parts technology centre will ensure that Canadian components of the North American automotive industry keep up with the rapid change which has overtaken the automotive industry as a whole.

Close to my field of expertise is the commitment to support biotechnology research. Biotechnology is the manipulation of genes and micro-organisms for the production of new compounds and substances. A gardener who creates a new hybrid rose is participating in a form of biotechnology. There will be benefits for agriculture from biotechnology research. For example, in food processing, such as preparation of cheese and milk, biotechnology will bring greater efficiency and new breakthroughs. In all areas of industrial activity, biotechnology will bring new techniques and efficiency. This government's commitment to biotechnology demonstrates our ability to plan ahead to develop new strengths and to foresee new trends.

Another area of government's ability to plan for the future is in the energy field. Energy Ontario already has many plans and projects encouraging the use of alternative fuels. From the solar heated senior citizens apartment in Elgin county to programs to encourage more efficient fuel use in the family car, this government is committed to reducing Ontario's dependence on imported energy.

There are a number of programs which the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of Energy are carrying on in the area of agricultural research in increasing energy efficiency. Just to mention briefly, there is the methane gas research facility at Arkell, at the swine research station just outside of Guelph. Another is the ongoing efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to promote experimentation in the use of fuel alcohol on the farm. These have been heavily supported by these two ministries and have received favourable reception in the agricultural community.

This government is working to reduce energy costs for rural areas, and because of the situation in the agricultural industry these days everyone can appreciate the logic in that statement. Agriculture is the chief concern of Durham-York. My riding is a rural riding and we are blessed with fertile soil and available markets for our produce.

I am a farmer, and until I was nominated to represent the Progressive Conservative Party in Durham-York I operated a farm in Georgina

township. While I have made arrangements for the management of the farm since I have become an MPP, I am still deeply involved in farming matters. The concerns of farmers are my concerns. I share their successes and their problems. This is why I would like to take a few minutes to discuss agriculture in a general way.

To begin with, I would like to commend this government for its proposal to support the construction of storage facilities for home-grown fruit and vegetables. The Keswick Marsh and the Queensville area are centres of vegetable production in Durham-York. There are pockets of production elsewhere in the riding, but these are the two main areas.

The vegetables grown in Durham-York have a short shelf life. This means that during harvest time farmers are at the mercy of what processors and retailers wish to pay them for their produce. The orderly sale of these crops at this time can be reduced to something similar to a fire sale, and farmers are eager to unload as much of their harvest as possible in order not to be caught with unsold, rotting produce.

Proper storage facilities will greatly reduce this situation. Farmers will be put in a better position to bargain prices with the buyers and to store produce for sale later in the season. A longer buying season for Ontario produce will be a good thing. Farmers will benefit from the opportunity to receive a fairer price and consumers will benefit from the opportunity of buying local produce rather than paying for goods shipped for miles by truck from the sunny shores of California.

The developments in agriculture during this century are unmatched by any other industry in Ontario. The gain in efficiency and the output per man cannot be matched by any other industry. Research, much of it funded by this government, has kept Ontario farmers competitive with all other farmers in any major agricultural area in North America. The expanding supply of new varieties of fruits, vegetables, grains and forages, advances in animal breeding, improvements in animal nutrition, improvement in food and feed quality, advances in engineering, advances in all areas of agricultural production are ample testament to the excellent agricultural research establishment which has been created in Ontario.

I was part of this agricultural research community for seven years. I can personally attest to the quality and dedication of the professionals who are involved in agricultural research in this province. The throne speech pledged this government to keep Ontario at the forefront of agriculture in Canada and North America. I know that we have the will and the expertise to do so.

There is one last thing which I wish to mention about a situation in the riding. Durham-York, as I mentioned at the start of my remarks, is blessed with many miles of waterfront property. The Lake Simcoe and Lake Scugog areas provide excellent recreational facilities for the Metro Toronto region. With provincial advertising to encourage more tourist activity in Ontario and with increases in gas pushing up the cost of travel, the proximity of Durham-York's recreational facilities makes it seem ideal for development.

Unfortunately, Durham-York has not benefited from grants and loans for the development of tourism to the same degree as some other areas. My riding has the potential to become one of Toronto's playgrounds. I believe this potential should be encouraged by support from this province.

Those using Durham-York recreational facilities fall into two main groups. First, there are the summer residents. They are generally vacationers who spend some time in the region, providing a boost to local retailers and service industries. The second group is the day-trippers. These people travel to the area, stay for as short as a few hours, they spend little in the region and often leave a mound of garbage behind to be disposed of by the local municipality. I would like to see funds, either in the form of grants or loans, sent to Durham-York to help develop the kind of tourist facilities which will encourage longer stays by vacationers. These kinds of facilities will have the best overall effect on the area economy.

4:50 p.m.

In my view, attention should be given to the north end of the riding. The recent survey of York region shows that Georgina township is suffering from the lowest employment rate and the lowest income levels in York region. The north and central areas of my riding require economic assistance. The encouragement of tourism in Durham-York will go a long way to improve the picture of municipalities like Georgina township.

Last November, the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) unveiled a program of supplementary measures to stimulate the Ontario economy. At that time, the Treasurer proposed a program for development of rural counties of central Ontario, which included funding for tourist operators

to upgrade facilities. I would like to see the addition of funds to act as a capital incentive for the startup of new tourist facilities.

Tourism is an important factor in boosting regional economies. According to figures from the Ministry of Industry and Tourism, the arrival of 1,000 tourists in a town or region generates an average of $99,000 in income and creates five man-years of employment. This is the kind of incentive we need in Durham-York.

The comprehensive approach of this government, as represented in the BILD program and last week's throne speech, demonstrates this province is well governed. The policy of this government is to give people the freedom and responsibility to take control of their lives, contribute to their communities and build careers and homes.

Progressive policy in research, in energy, in agriculture, in manufacturing and in tourism have made Ontario one of the best places on earth to live and work. The gentlemen opposite have spoken of Ontario as a place of economic decay. They have ignored our successes and dwelt on our shortcomings. They have described our province as a place to leave. This is not the kind of Ontario which the members on this side of the House are working for. We believe in the future of this province and we believe in its people. We believe Ontarians have the genius, the skill, the spirit of enterprise to develop new technology and industry. There is a bright future for Ontario, a future in which this province provides the leadership in the most advanced technology possible.

This is the promise of Ontario. This is the goal for which all of the members on this side of the House are working. With the progressive proposals of the speech from the throne and the framework for development provided by BILD, the promise of Ontario will continue to be fulfilled.

I urge all members of this House to act as one for the future of Ontario. I urge the passing of this tnrone speech and the co-operation of all members in the work that lies ahead. Thank you.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I noticed over the past few moments a tidal wave of members making their way to this chamber. Now that just about every single seat is full, and everyone is anxious, and the galleries are full, and I notice the press gallery is full, now that everyone is here and listening and awaiting these remarks I think I would first like to start off by congratulating the member for Peterborough (Mr. Turner) on his nomination and on his acceptance of the role of Speaker. I want to congratulate the member from Durham East (Mr. Cureatz) on his nomination as the Deputy Speaker, and I want to congratulate the member for York Centre (Mr. Cousens), who has been appointed Deputy Chairman of the committee of the whole House.

Before I leave this subject, though, I would like to make some comments on the role of Speaker, on some of the things that I have seen take place over the past four or five years, and some of the things that have been changed and possibly need to be re-evaluated or at least looked at a second time.

For some time now the previous Speaker, the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), a man for whom I have great respect and who I believe did a fine job in the Speaker's chair, had started a tradition which allowed the Speaker, officers of the table and other employees of the assembly to start a procession from the Speaker's office, proceed up the grand stairway and, of course, end at the Speaker's chair. That tradition has been eliminated, and I believe that is very unfortunate.

I had the opportunity on many an occasion to watch the procession. I had the opportunity to see hundreds of school children lined up on both sides of the hall, and I am telling you they enjoyed it thoroughly. Their school teachers and anyone else who happened to be with them on the trips, I could see by the number of pictures that were being taken, by the smiles, by the size of their eyes as the Speaker would go by, were enjoying that tradition, were enjoying that procession, and I am sorry to see that has been eliminated. I would hope that some time in the future the Speaker would give consideration to having the procession as part of our proceedings again.

I would also like to say I am concerned that now the Speaker refers to us by our names and not by the ridings which we represent. I feel—and it is the tradition in the House of Commons—that all members should be recognized by their ridings. I am not sure as to the logic or the reason or what enhancement we in this chamber receive by being acknowledged by our names. Certainly we refer to the person in the chair as Mr. Speaker. We do not refer to the person in the chair by his name, and I believe the same respect should be accorded to all members of this House.

Finally, I want to bring to the Speaker's attention what I consider a privilege which has been lost by all members of this House. It has

been the practice for the past three years for members of this chamber to redirect questions to other cabinet ministers when the occasion arose and when the occasion was proper. We have now been told that this tradition, which had been used extensively but had not been abused as far as I could see by any member, also has now been abandoned. I ask you and I ask all the members in the House what objection they would have if an individual member were to question a minister, and then that member were to feel he or she could get a better response from another cabinet minister who is in the chamber, who is seated, who has heard the question, who would probably be prepared to answer the question if the question were redirected to him or her?

What benefit are we receiving in this chamber by not allowing individual members that opportunity? We must continue to remind ourselves that we are here to question the government during question period. I even notice that some of the government's own back-benchers ask questions of their cabinet colleagues; and frankly that surprises me, because they should be able to have access to all of that kind of information.

But I just want to get back to the point: what, in any way, are we doing to stop the proper procedure of this chamber by redirecting the supplementary questions? It is done in the House of Commons every single day the Commons sits, and I reject completely the argument that because this is not done in our mother Parliament in Westminster it should not be done here. I say to you, Mr. Speaker—and you are very well aware of this—we do many things in this chamber and in question period which are not done in Westminster.

We do not prepare our questions in advance; we do not submit our questions in writing to the ministers in advance of our having placed them. I am sure no member would ever want to get into a situation like that, which was the way it was here in this chamber some time ago. I believe we have made some progress with the rules. Let us keep the rules.

5 p.m.

Just because the government has now won 70 seats does not give it the privilege to change the rules of this chamber arbitrarily. Just because it has an overwhelming majority, just because it was re-elected to govern on March 19, does not give it a mandate to be arrogant, does not give it a mandate to take away our privileges, and does not give it a mandate in any form or fashion to prevent us from doing our jobs responsibly.

I would also to take this opportunity to thank the people of Essex South for returning me to this chamber. This is my third election.

Mr. McLean: Lucky!

Mr. Mancini: If you think 53 per cent of the vote and 5,000 majority is lucky, then I guess it is.

Mr. Roy: On the third time, not bad.

Mr. Epp: That was after the recount.

Mr. Mancini: It is certainly a privilege to represent a riding as diverse as mine. Many of the new members possibly are not familiar with the Essex South riding. It stretches along the southern boundary of Essex county from Amherstburg on the far west right through small rural communities such as Harrow and Kingsville, through Leamington, the tomato capital of the world, and it ends at the village of Wheatley. We have a very diverse riding. We have a large agricultural sector. We have a fishing industry and a large industrial base. With this type of diversity go many benefits and many problems. The members who were here prior to the last election, I am sure, heard on many occasions my description of the riding and some of the things I have been very proud to mention. I do not want to go into that at this particular time.

I want to speak of the election which has just passed. On election night—it was quite late—my wife and I were driving home. All the festivities were over. I must have shaken hands with nearly a thousand people and had received their congratulations and was happy to see so many of my friends at the victory party. On our way home, we were driving along and tuned in to the CBC because we could not believe the Tories had won a majority. They had done nothing to earn a majority. They had run a crass political campaign. We wanted to tune in to the CBC to make sure what we heard at about 8:15 on March 19 was true, that the Tories had been returned with a majority. The CBC was interviewing the newly elected member for St. George (Ms. Fish).

Evidently, the interviewer was quite impressed with the victory the new member had achieved and said: "Well, I expect you to go to Queen's Park and I expect you to be put into the cabinet. Are you looking forward to these things?" She said: "No, no. I don't think I'll be put in the cabinet. I'm going to have to spend the first two or three weeks trying to find out where the washrooms are." I thought that was rather hilarious, that a person who had been involved in city politics here in this large city of Toronto,

less than four or five blocks from the Legislative Building, would have to spend the first two or three weeks looking for the washroom.

After I got here I saw some 20 new members, all dressed almost identically in blue suits—they must have had a run on blue suits over at Stollery's the week before—I said to myself, I am sure they are going to need two or three weeks to find the washrooms, all of them.

I want to say, before I get carried along too far into my remarks, that I was really fortunate in this past election that I had the opportunity to run against two very fine individuals. Both the Progressive Conservative candidate and the New Democratic Party candidate were really outstanding gentlemen.

I have run in several elections, both provincial and at a local level, and this is the first time I can say I was involved in a campaign where everyone carried themselves in a very honourable fashion. I think both the other parties should know that their standard-bearers were both excellent campaigners and both were very fine gentlemen. I hope they do as well next time.

I do want to talk a little bit, not about the local campaign which was run in Essex South or in Windsor and Essex county, where the Liberals were tremendously successful. We won four out of five seats and Liberals have a majority government in Windsor and Essex county. We know the new member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye) is going to be here, and he is going to speak on the important issues and he is going to be dynamic and he is going to represent the people of Windsor-Sandwich in a way that has not been done for some time. Yes, the truth hurts.

I do want to talk about the broad general provincial election. I have to say I was quite surprised at the whole thing. I did not know that the Tories could be that crass. I did not know they would be willing to use the civil service as a political instrument. I did not know they would be willing to use government funds to promote their own end results.

I have a small clipping here, Mr. Speaker, just so you know that I am not making up these facts. I want the Speaker to know I am not making up these facts. I have a clipping here from the Windsor Star, that great daily newspaper that serves the people of Windsor and Essex county. I want, in particular, the member from Sarnia (Mr. Brandt) to pay close attention to this. It says here, "Food ad campaign to cost $500,000." Can you believe that? Half a million dollars.

Listen to this: "Two days before calling a provincial election, Ontario's Conservative government dug $100,700 out of the taxpayers' pockets to crank up a controversial advertising campaign. The government advertising director, Campbell McDonald, confirmed this week additional air time for a campaign plugging Ontario foodstuffs was purchased in the last week in January."

Can you believe that? Just a few days before the provincial election was called—it says here in the Windsor Star, just two days before the provincial election was called—and they ended up spending $500,000. It also says here that they would feature "fat cows and farmers, singing in the fields, good things grow in Ontario."

That is what they did. That is how crass this party has been. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, and I know you have a lot of sympathy for this, Windsor, and Essex county to some extent, is in an economic depression. When people are losing their livelihoods, when people are losing their homes, when they cannot make ends meet and are feeling destitute, the last thing these people need is crass politics.

5:10 p.m.

For quite some time now the Ministry of Industry and Tourism has been dangling in front of the people of Ontario an automotive parts technology centre. If anyone wanted to know about banking, if the person had any smarts he would go to Bay Street. If anyone wanted to know about greenhouses, if he had any smarts he would go to Leamington. If anyone wanted to know about auto parts and the auto industry he would have to go to Windsor. That is only logical. But the Conservatives would rather play crass politics; they would rather ignore the needs of many people who have suffered and are suffering today in the Windsor and Essex county area because of the downturn in the car industry. That community needs that auto parts centre.

But what did we hear from the Ontario Tories during the election campaign? I quote from a famous daily, the Windsor Star: "When announced, just before the election was called, the centre was slated for either Chatham or the Niagara region. Both places are where Conservative candidates are in trouble." Politics before people once again.

"But for the people of Windsor, Correctional Services Minister Gordon Walker, in Windsor Monday drumming up votes, claimed the centre could be built somewhere between Chatham and Windsor." There we have it. That is what the government had to offer to the people of

Windsor and Essex county and that is why it is zero for five. It should not ever count on winning a seat in Windsor or Essex county until it starts putting politics before people. I am shamed, I am shocked.

Some hon. members: People before politics!

Mr. Mancini: I am sorry, people before politics.

Interjections.

Mr. Mancini: That should read "people before politics." You guys know what I mean; do not be funny.

An hon. member: We are just trying to help.

Mr. Mancini: Thank you. I will be helping you in a minute.

The government should not even consider winning a seat in Windsor-Essex county until it starts putting people before politics. I am ashamed, appalled that it would play that kind of politics when we in the Windsor area have suffered nearly 20 per cent unemployment. What do those people think they are there for?

Mr. Roy: It is called cynical politics. It is sleazy.

Interjections.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I will address my comments to you so I will not be interrupted by some of the Tories.

In the year 1981, Christmas came in March and Bill Davis was Santa Claus. In nearly every community he appeared in he brought with him a cheque. What offends me the most about the kind of election campaign we saw was that this political party used the civil service to develop the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program which they turned into a political document. It should refund the Treasury of Ontario for the cost of that document. Shame on you.

When we look at this chamber and we see 70 Tories, 34 Liberals and 21 New Democrats, we have to ask ourselves, "How were they able to get 70?" I maintain it was in collusion with the New Democratic Party and I am going to provide evidence of that in very short order. I maintain that the Conservative Party of Ontario was able to achieve a 70-seat party here in this chamber with collusion from the New Democratic Party.

Interjections.

Mr. Mancini: Just listen to the facts. In 1980, after having given this government three years to put in place the famous Brampton charter and after having watched it do nothing for three years—not do a single thing to deserve re-election—we on this side of the House in this party came to the conclusion it was time to turf out that old party once and for all.

Interjections.

Mr. Mancini: You see, Mr. Speaker, the NDP do not understand political reality. In the election of 1975, when the people elected a minority government, they wanted us to come to Queen's Park to work, not to play politics. The Conservative Party played politics in early 1977 and the people of Ontario said: "No. Go back to Queen's Park the same way," and they returned another minority government. They sent us back here to work on their behalf and not to play politics like my friends on the left. That is what they did.

After having given this government three years to put into place the Brampton charter and after having watched it do nothing but squander that time, we decided it was time to turf it out once and for all. We could probably have defeated them back in 1980, except that collusion was taking place between the Tories and the NDP. When we introduced a proposal to alleviate the tremendous impact of high interest rates on home owners, on small businessmen, on farmers, the Ontario Tories said, "No" and the Ontario NDP said, "We agree with the Ontario Tories." Our proposal went down the drain. We had a no-confidence motion—

Mr. Breaugh: And the Ontario Liberals said yes and no.

Mr. Mancini: If the new members who have not had a chance to read Hansard go back to the Hansard of Monday, March 24, page 164, they will see a no-confidence motion. They will see it says: "This government has failed to protect the people of Ontario from escalating high interest rates on residential mortgages, small business loans and farmer loans." We moved a motion of no confidence and the NDP quickly jumped into bed with the Conservative Party. That is the collusion I am talking about.

Mr. Eaton: The member's federal colleagues caused it and he wants somebody else to correct it.

Mr. Mancini: Hang on. It is my turn to give a throne speech. This government introduced a policy which takes money away from the elderly needy. The Toronto Star on March 3 said—and I am quoting the editorial—"Tax switch hurts needy." It says here: "The Ontario government made a mistake last year when it replaced property and sales tax credits with outright grants to ease the burden of sales and property

taxes for the elderly. For many of the elderly the results of that mistake are now painfully apparent." They go on to describe how the poor elderly receive less money under this new program and the elderly who had incomes in excess of $20,000 a year received more.

5:20 p.m.

We put forward a proposal which said that no person should receive less money under the new plan than they did under the old plan. Not only that, but we introduced a no-confidence motion Monday, April 28.

Interjections.

Mr. Mancini: This is the collusion I am talking about. That's why they are down to 21 seats and I want them to know why. On April 28, 1980, page 1205 of Hansard—you new members should read this—the motion of no confidence condemns the government for giving public moneys. It says, "It deplores the fact that in provision of additional assistance to senior citizens the government has chosen to do so in an inequitable manner, giving less to those most in need." Less to those most in need. That party voted with that government to defeat this no-confidence motion and the poor elderly are paying for that now. And they want to know why they are down to 21 seats?

Interjections.

Mr. Mancini: I sat in the House a week ago, watching the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) as he introduced a slough of private member bills, amendments to the Labour Relations Act. Where was the NDP and the member for Hamilton East when this government introduced Bill 89? In case my NDP friends have forgotten, Bill 89 allows strikebreakers to participate in a vote to approve a contract that has been put forward by management to the union. These people helped the Ontario Tories pass a despicable piece of antilabour legislation.

As I travel through my riding and meet with union leaders they shake their heads in disgust and say: "How could Bill 89 pass through the chamber? How could that happen?" But it did happen. It happened because the Conservatives and the New Democrats got together, made a sweetheart deal, sold the working man down the drain and passed Bill 89. Now we have to live with Bill 89.

Mr. Piché: Do you believe what he is saying?

Mr. Mancini: I want the member for Cochrane North to read Bill 89 and report back to the House to see what you think. Will you do that?

Mr. Piché: I will, I promise.

An hon. member: Or get someone to read it for you.

Mr. Mancini: I will send him a copy. I also want to take this time to talk about the moneys this government has given to wealthy corporations. The April 30, 1981, Toronto Star stated, "Millions Wasted in Forest Industry Grants, Says Report." What we witnessed here was the biggest heist since the great train robbery. This government took millions and millions of the taxpayers' dollars and gave it to wealthy corporations that did not have a need for it.

Interjections.

Mr. Mancini: No, not in Windsor.

It says here there was nobody bidding to have the forest industry move from the north. We were in no bidding war with the state of Ohio, so you guys check up on the facts. It says here: Spruce Falls Power and Paper Company, $4.65 million from the Ontario government; Great Lakes Forest Products, $25 million from the Ontario government; Abitibi-Price Limited, $15 million from the Ontario government; E.B. Eddy Forest Products, $16 million from the Ontario government; Domtar, $10 million from the Ontario government. I could go on and on and on.

I do not know how the new members of the Conservative caucus are going to be able to go home to their ridings, look their constituents in the eye and say: "Yes, these rich multinational corporations needed this money and that is why we gave them $100 million of the taxpayers' share of the general treasury. That is why we did it—because they needed it."

I would like to wind up by making a comment—

Interjections.

Mr. Mancini: I have a lot more things I could say. Do you guys want me to go on? I need a little encouragement.

Mr. Gillies: We will give you a standing ovation if you stop.

Mr. Mancini: In that case there are a couple of other things I would like to say. By living in the Windsor-Essex county area we are deluged by American propaganda through their media. I have been trying for some time to get the Ontario government to live up to its commitment as far as TVOntario is concerned so it can be received in the Windsor-Essex county area.

You people over there give TVOntario $20 million a year to provide Canadian television to Canadians. It is downright shameful that in the Windsor-Essex county area this service is not being provided because of the poor reception.

I was on the procedural affairs committee and we had Mr. Jim Parr, the chairman of TVOntario, come before us. He agreed with me at the committee hearings that something should be done to improve the service of TVOntario so that we as Ontario citizens could watch a television station that did not necessarily show M.A.S.H. or Dallas, but had some Canadian content.

However, after the committee hearings were over and I wrote to him asking him when he was going to take on this endeavour, when he was going to improve the reception by better towers in the Windsor-Essex county area, he said, "No, everything is fine, just fine."

That gentleman is really not representing the interests of all Ontarians. We in Windsor-Essex county pay our fair share of taxes that go to TVOntario. Part of that $20 million comes from the people of Windsor-Essex county and we have every right to be able to tune into that station which is paid for by the people of Ontario. In Windsor-Essex county there are 300,000 people and anyone who tells me proper service cannot be provided to a large group of people in such a compact area does not know what he is talking about or just does not want to do his job. It appears to me the Tories do not want to do their job as far as TVOntario is concerned.

Those guys have money to burn when it does not really count. When there are people suffering, when there are people in need, there is always restraint on, but when there is money to waste they seem to have a lot of it.

5:30 p.m.

I want to bring a report to their attention, and I know the member for Mississauga East (Mr. Gregory) is listening intently. The member for St. David (Mrs. Scrivener) was appointed chairman of the Ontario Task Force on Provincial Rail Policy. It was entitled The Future of the Role of Rail in Ontario, Final Report. It cost $300,000 to produce this report. The only good thing about this report is it has a flashy cover. It is an outstanding cover. The people who were commissioned—

Mr. Eaton: Do you not think the content is any good?

Mr. Mancini: I will get to that in a moment. The people who were commissioned to prepare this cover I am sure were paid well and they did a good job. It is just too bad the content could not match the cover. What they did after a couple of trips, I assume, here and there—I know they made a trip to Europe because it was very important to go to Europe to see what was being done there so they should make this report and table it in the House—is they tabled this report, and they made almost 200 recommendations that are nothing but motherhood statements.

They did not attach a single cost estimate to any of the nearly 200 recommendations. They did not attach a total cost estimate to the whole package. Finally, they did not say what the detrimental effects to Ontario would be if these recommendations were not put into place. What is the use of this report? Why did they not ask the people who were on this commission to make some kind of recommendation in a less glamorous form to the Mississauga railway accident inquiry or to the Canadian Transport Commission? They did not have to spend $300,000 just to give some kind of public relations image to this endeavour. That is why I say these people always seem to have money to burn when it is not necessary.

They have been successful over the last 38 years in winning elections. As far as giving good government is concerned, their track record is lousy. As far as I am concerned, they are fat, complacent and arrogant. This will be their last four years in office, and good riddance to them.

Mr. Samis: M. le Président, j'ai l'honneur de participer à ce débat au nom des électeurs de la circonscription de Cornwall et j'aimerais vous féliciter sur votre nomination comme Président de l'Assemblée législative.

Je vous souhaite beaucoup de succès dans votre tâche et je peux vous assurer que vous aurez l'appui de tous mes collègues dans notre caucus dans vos efforts pour ce qui est l'impartialité de votre position. Je crois que c'est très important de continuer la tradition établie par votre prédécesseur, le député de Nipigon, car l'Assemblée a fait du progrès important au cours de son terme.

Monsieur le Président, j'aimerais également remercier les gens de Cornwall pour avoir renouvelé mon mandat en tant que leur porte-parole ici à Queen's Park et j'aimerais remercier particulièrement les gens ordinaries de Cornwall, parce qu'ils sont responsables pour ma victoire. Ils savent que je ne suis pas le porte-

parole de la haute finance, des grosses sociétés, des intérêts privilégiés, des avocats, des médecins, des entrepreneurs et des gens qui cherchent du patronage. Non, Monsieur le Président, les gens ordinaires savent que je représente, je parle, et je lutte pour les gens ordinaires de ma circonscription et qu'ensemble, nous avons battu la fameuse machine bleue le 19 mars. Les francophones de Cornwall, Monsieur l'Orateur, sont déçus par le discours du Trône et par ce gouvernement.

Ils sont très déçus par la politique constitutionnelle du gouvernement de M. Davis et son refus d'accepter l'article 133 pour la minorité francophone dans cette province. Ils se demandent pourquoi y aura-t-il deux mesures pour deux minorités dans les deux provinces centrales: une pour les anglophones au Québec et une autre pour les francophones en Ontario?

Ils sont déçus par le refus de ce gouvernement d'accepter le principe d'un Conseil scolaire homogène pour les francophones d'Ottawa-Carleton.

Ils sont deçus par le fait qu'il n'existe pas en ce moment une école secondaire moderne pour les francophones de la région de Pénétang. Ils se rappellent les promesses faites par le Ministre de l'Education (Mlle. Stephenson) qu'il y aurait une école francophone à partir du premier (Iier) janvier cette année, mais ils savent aussi que les étudiants francophones doivent aller à une école inférieure aux normes exigées, soit à Lafontaine.

Ils sont déçus par le discours du Trone parce qu'ils savent qu'il n'y a aucun programme, aucune nouvelle initiative pour stimuler l'économie dans l'Est de l'Ontario. Ah oui, la région de Toronto a reçu toutes sortes de promesses tandis que l'Est n'a reçu que des petites "bouchées" seulement. Ils ne cherchent pas à avoir des privilèges dans cette province.

Non, ce qu'ils veulent c'est simplement pouvoir jouir de pleins droits, à juste titre, et ils savent que ce gouvernement s'intéresse plus aux victoires électorales qu'à la justice pour notre minorité francophone.

Monsieur le Président, j'aimerais dire que la population francophone, comme la population d'autres comtés de cette province, sont très déçues par la politique linguistique, culturelle et constitutionnelle de ce gouvernement. Ils demandent pourquoi seulement le parti Conservateur a refusé d'accepter leurs droits linguistiques dans une nouvelle constitution comme était accepté par le premier ministre conservateur du Nouveau-Brunswick.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the electors of the riding of Cornwall I want to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to you on your election. I know you have broken a rather well-established tradition in the riding of Peterborough by being able to overcome the jinx whereby every successive election the people have seemed to change their representative, and I congratulate you on that.

As a private member, I have to say that I hope you will maintain the tradition established by the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), the impartiality that he established and the way he asserted the role of the chair and did not allow himself to be intimidated by any side of this House, especially this side.

Second, I want to take this opportunity to thank again the people of Cornwall for renewing my mandate. I am especially proud of the fact that we spent only $13,500 to defeat the famous Big Blue Machine, and I attribute my victory not to the big-money boys, nor to the lawyers or the doctors or the vested interests or the privileged interests or the fat cats or the pork-barrel seekers, but to the good, honest, hard-working, ordinary people of Cornwall, to whom I owe the privilege of representing the riding of Cornwall and to whom I owe my deepest thanks.

In terms of the throne speech, to me it is essentially a recycling of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program, which is all based on the election campaign. So at your discretion, Mr. Speaker, I want to concentrate the bulk of my remarks on the recent election campaign, because I think that is the pertinent issue here in reality, not the throne speech.

First of all, as an Ontario politician and as a member of this House, I have to express my concern and disappointment at the turnout in this election. When I say that virtually one in two voters in this province was not sufficiently interested even to bother to vote, something is seriously wrong in our political system and in our political process, and if we do not face that reality we are living in a dream world.

In 1967, something like 66 per cent of the voters cared enough to go out and vote; in 1971, 73.5 per cent; in 1975, 66.7 per cent; in 1977, 65.6 per cent; and now we are down to 57 per cent.

When the Americans had their Presidential election, many of us up here sort of poohpoohed it and said, "Isn't that terrible, the turnout down there?" It is pretty pathetic when virtually half the electorate are not sufficiently interested to go out and vote.

Angus MacInnis had an interesting description of Canadian politics, and there may be more than a germ of truth in it. He used to describe politics in British Columbia as pure entertainment, politics on the Prairies as religion, politics in Ontario as a business, politics in Quebec as a way of life, politics in the Maritimes as a disgrace. Here in Ontario I think there is a lot of truth to what MacInnis said: politics is a fairly impersonal business.

5:40 p.m.

I just compare the turnouts. If people say this declining interest is a nationwide phenomenon, I point to the turnout in the last two federal elections, which was between 75 and 80 per cent. I point to the recent election in Quebec, where there was a decline in the voter turnout and some people were worried about it; it went down from 83 per cent to 82 per cent. But we are at 57 per cent.

Something is seriously wrong, I suggest, in the body politic of Ontario. I am not sure of the reasons. I do not have any easy answers, but I want to advance a couple of ideas that may have something to do with the decline in interest.

Starting first with the Legislature, Mr. Speaker, because I think this is where it does start, I want to call to your attention to what is happening in the question period. As a private member, I feel there is a tremendous gulf between what the question period was designed to do and what is actually happening.

It is now two weeks that we have been in session, and I have been keeping an informal record of what happens day by day. I think we have averaged—at least we in this party; I cannot speak for the Liberals—between two and three questions a day beyond the leadership questions.

Today, for example, if I am not mistaken, the leaders took up 35 minutes of the question period. It is fairly common now that they take up at least half the question period every day and we are lucky on this side, in this party at least, if we get in two questions a day for back-benchers.

I really do not think the question period was designed to be monopolized by two people competing for those god almighty cameras. I really think the back-benchers have something to contribute. I think we can introduce more topics, more problems and more concerns in this Legislature, and something has to be done about this monopoly of the question period by the leaders.

I do not blame you, Mr. Speaker, because I noticed in the closing months of the previous Parliament we had the exact same problem. I just hope as you begin your term that you will try to do something before we get caught in this rut again. It seems to me we are off to a bad start, and I hope you will do something about it. I do not ascribe blame to any particular side, because I think we must take our share of the blame here sometimes in terms of needless, time-consuming supplementaries for the sake of getting into print or on camera, which really do not contribute much to the House.

A second thing that I think would improve the proceedings here in the chamber is the whole question of voting patterns and voting habits in the Legislature. Some people would disagree with me, but I happen to think excessive discipline is exercised in our version of the parliamentary system. Most votes are done virtually sheeplike: one party votes one way and every single member follows along, whether it is the Liberals, ourselves or the Tories. I do not see any party showing much freedom of spirit or individuality.

I think we as members have to take part of the blame, because we accept such a system, but I really think it is time we asserted our individuality, asserted more in the interests of our own constituents and our own conscience and stopped submitting so frequently, so submissively to the discipline exercised by whips and leaders and House leaders—as heretical as that may sound to some.

Sometimes you even wonder about the relevance of your own constituents in these votes. How often do we as members say: "What do my constituents think about that? I wonder what they think about it? What do I feel or I do just fall in line?" On the government's side I can understand the back-benchers are under unique pressure, because they want to get into the cabinet. Over here there may be other pressures; they may not be as strong, but there are similar pressures exercised. My simple point is, I think the end result is that it has a bad effect on the spontaneity, the freedom and the creativity of this chamber, and I think the voters are the losers in the long run.

Third, I want to suggest something that really was brought home to me in this campaign. Campaigning in the afternoon at two o'clock when the House of Commons was in session, I was astonished at how many people actually watch question period broadcast live on television. It is not just the senior citizens; it really

covers a broad spectrum of people. They were actually interested in it and would talk about it when you came to the door.

In my riding, which is very distant from Toronto and where provincial politics is tertiary—and a very poor third, I may say—there is very little interest in what goes on in this chamber, and the media impact is virtually nil. Part of that is because we have a particular situation. CJOH-TV in Ottawa tends to dominate the region; it is federally and municipally oriented and gives short shrift to the provincial Legislature.

We have to reconsider the idea of expanding our facilities to provide for additional TV broadcasting. I think TV is the one medium that reaches people, not the paid advertisements but things such as question period and major events.

Mr. Eaton: You mean you guys never got any of the question period.

Mr. Samis: That is right. When I talk about TV I am not talking about giving the leaders added time. It is guys like the member and myself and the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) who should get more publicity.

Mr. Eaton: It would be worse if you got the member for Scarborough West in.

Mr. Samis: Not him; I'll take that back.

The fourth proposal I want to make for consideration is the whole question of campaigning. One problem is that peopletend to think parties are dominated by vested interests and vested groups who have the money or clout of their organizations and the ordinary individual is pretty minimal. He is manipulated and used at election time and that is it; then the backroom boys or the big money boys take over.

I noticed in Quebec, which had an 82 per cent turnout, the Parti Quebecois has more than 300,000 paid-up members. Even the Liberal Party has 250,000 paid-up members. I cannot explain it in simple terms, but I did notice one thing about their election laws that might have some benefit in Ontario: no corporation or union is allowed to make a financial contribution at election time.

That means the political parties have to go out and reach the individual voter to convince him to contribute. They have pretty strict laws on how much one can contribute, on disclosure, as well as good laws on advertising limits. It means the political parties have to forget going to the corporate or union donor. They have to knock on doors, get on the phones to contact individuals and get them involved in the political process.

Even the Union Nationale, which got clobbered in the election and did not win a single seat, was still able to claim a year prior to the election that it had 25,000 paid-up members. Everybody had written them off by then as a spent force in Quebec politics. I wonder how our politics would be affected if we were to adopt a similar law in Ontario, with no corporate or union donors of any sort.

I want to address myself to what actually transpired during the election. I want to preface my remarks by emphasizing that I accept the results fully. I do not bear any malice or sour grapes over the results. The voters made their choices. I accept that. I emphasize we are back with only 21 seats.

I believe that, as New Democrats, we have to accept our own full share of the blame for our poor showing. I do not deny such factors as our leadership problems and the failure to convince people of the merits of our leader. We have to look at our own campaign in terms of convincing labour people what their role should be or should not be in politics. We failed to interest the broad scope of the electorate in our perception of what the main issues were in the economy and in the election, especially the economic issues. We obviously failed to interest them on that.

The simple reality is that, for a variety of reasons, many of our own supporters did not even bother to go out and vote for us this time. Those things should not be blamed on the government side. They should be blamed on ourselves. We should look at ourselves as a party and ask, "Why did we not do better in each of those categories?"

As a member of the NDP, I accept the contention we are more to blame for our own situation than any of our adversaries or the electorate. But having participated as a candidate in five elections in this province, four of them general elections and one a by-election, there were certain aspects of this election I found to be regrettable, reprehensible and repulsive.

Let me make it clear I accept certain rules of the game. The fact is that the Quebec election, which was right on the heels of our own election, provides interesting and revealing comparisons. Let us talk about the use of polls, for example. Both the Parti Quebecois and the Parti

Conservateur, the PCs, made extensive use of polls. In fact, I would argue this is a government that rules by polls.

I look at my friend the member for London South (Mr. Walker), the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. This is a man who, when he was defeated, I recall, engaged in extensive letter writing and got publicity he was not seeking by denouncing the whole role of this government and its intervention in the economy.

5:50 p.m.

Last week, we had the amazing sight of the same member getting up and defending rent control in this House. Any small-c conservative would absolutely abhor the idea of a Conservative Party instituting, continuing and pledging to continue a system of rent controls.

It is such an absurd situation that I had a constituent come up to me during the campaign and he said, "Samis, you know I do not vote for you." I said, "I know that." He said, "Well, what the hell do I do?" I said, "What are you talking about?" He said: "There is not a Conservative Party left in Ontario. I read the paper last night. Davis is going to continue rent controls. They want to spend more money on the campaign. They want to help out the corporations. Where does a Conservative vote these days?".

Why would people who call themselves Conservatives be doing such things? Obviously, a simple reason was provided this week in the Toronto Star. The Goldfarb poll showed a massive proportion of voters, especially in this city, want rent control to continue. On a whole host of riding issues, I dare say there is not one on which the Premier (Mr. Davis) spoke in the recent campaign on which they did not have a detailed, in-depth poll done first before the Premier took a policy stand.

I want to emphasize that I do not like polls. In fact, I would ban their publication during election time. But I accept them as part of the political system, even though it gives the government side a tremendous advantage, because polls are expensive and they have the money to pay for them. I accept that as part of the game, the use of the polls and how they can help one party more than others.

Mr. Eaton: The Liberals do them over their own phones.

Mr. Samis: That is right. We do them. I do not deny it. If I had my way, I would do away with them.

Second, in regard to another part of the recent campaign, it is very interesting to compare our province and Quebec in the use of goodies. The Premier of this province made it his personal specialty to go around to selected ridings with the old cheque book and hand out somewhere in the range of $275 million worth of goodies. A goody a day will keep the opposition away.

I noticed—I forget the riding—the Premier doing the old cheque book routine, where a reporter was overheard to say: "Aw, let us cut out this crap. Sign the cheque and let's move on to the next town." It is getting pretty bad when it reaches that level.

That was not the only thing. On top of that, we had the fall mini-budget, when everybody thought there might be an election. A quarter of a billion dollars was spent on goodies then—$275 million on this campaign and $250 million last fall.

I have to admit René Lévesque learned a few lessons from this campaign. He went around to his selected ridings, his targeted groups, whether they were occupational or interest groups—in Quebec, they are a little more visceral; they call them "gainsburgers." The Premier goes around and hands out the "gainsburgers" in the riding.

As an opposition member, it is hard to argue. They both won with massive majorities. We like to think people are too cynical to buy that sort of stuff, but obviously in certain ridings, with certain types of people, it works. I resent it at times, but I want to emphasize that I accept it as part of the political game today.

Third, let us look at mass media. In this province the PCs made absolutely massive use of the media, especially radio and television. There were very few limits whatsoever on spending, as we all know. There were the jingles on radio, which nauseated probably eight million people in this province, about keeping the promise. In my own riding, every 15 minutes on the English radio station, people had to put up with that nauseous ad.

But we all know they had expensive market research done. They bring in special experts for the campaign. They do all sorts of special advertising research. Then they come up with the campaign. And it was slick; I make no bones about it.

Again, I have to confess it is not just the PCs who do it. If we look at the election in Quebec, René Lévesque did the same thing. The Parti Québecois did the same thing—massive advertising, extensive use of ad agencies and market research—and again, very smoothly, cleverly

and slickly done. I do not like that sort of politics, I do not think it is healthy, but I accept it as part of the political game today.

Fourth, if we talk about leaders and issues, look again at the comparisons between Quebec and Ontario. Both the PCs and the PQ made extensive use of their leader in their ads. We saw all those signs, ads and proclamations around Ontario, "The Davis candidate in your riding is... Vote for the Davis candidate." In my riding, the PC candidate did not have a single ad in the newspaper without being shown alongside the Premier. Sometimes you wondered who was really running in Cornwall, the PC candidate or the Premier himself. But I accept the reality that it is not just the PCs who do it.

When I went down to Quebec during their election campaign—

Interjections.

Mr. Samis: If I can have your attention, Mr. Speaker, since obviously I do not have theirs, when I went to Quebec I saw these huge billboards done in a very dark blue. I would say that about two thirds of the Mediacom billboards were big pictures of Premier Lévesque with, as I said, this dark blue background. What did the big print say? "Faut rester fort l'équipe Lévesque" and, in very tiny print, "le Parti Québecois." Those guys over there must have been rolling in their trough, seeing a perfect imitation of what was going on here.

I noticed the way they used the Premier in Quebec, wearing dark suits, cutting down his cigarette smoking, having his wife with him at most appearances. They kept his appearances down to two a day. He was always seen in proper backgrounds, for example. Whenever he spoke they had a 20- or 30-foot stagedrop for the speech always arranged in advance, always conveying the aura of the authority of the office. It was the same as happened in this province.

Again, that is part of the game. Sometimes we say that is exploiting the office. Sometimes I think it is a bland, reassuring, noncontroversial, father-type campaign. But I accept that is what a party in power wants to do. If they think they can win on that basis, then why not try it? There is nothing illegal or illegitimate about it.

In this province I would ask, if they had such confidence in their leader and his polls were so favourable at the beginning of the campaign, why would he refuse the debate with the two opposition leaders on the issues of the campaign? I do not think it is a coincidence that only 57 per cent of the people bothered to vote and there was no election debate in this campaign among the three party leaders. If there is one thing that stimulates interest, I think it is a debate among the leaders.

Jimmy Carter was not afraid to debate Ronald Reagan, although he paid the price for it obviously. Valery Giscard d'Estaing is going to have his debate tonight. We know why he is debating tonight. We will see on Sunday what happens to him. But even in Quebec they make this parallel. René Lévesque had agreed to debate with both opposition leaders. Interestingly enough, it was the leader of the Liberal Party who refused to debate. The Premier of Quebec, who had the polls showing him in the lead, was willing to debate on television or on radio. It was Claude Ryan who did not want to debate. It makes me wonder.

Obviously the Premier was able to appeal very successfully to the very smug and, I suppose, somewhat parochial nature of this province. He stressed continuity and tradition very effectively. Obviously that means something to a lot of people. Obviously we in the opposition do not really understand that enough or we would not be here.

René Lévesque ran a fairly smug campaign in his own context, but at least he was not as bland, I do not think, as the Premier of this province. At least he had a fairly good legislative record to defend. But there is no question it was a highly controlled, deliberately noncontroversial, reassuring type of campaign. Again, I emphasize that I do not like that kind of politics, but I accept it as part of the game, and I am prepared to live with it.

These are the four aspects of political campaigning today that I do not particularly like, but I accept them as part of the game. But there are certain things that happened in this recent campaign I did not like, and I deeply resent, and I would like to speak to them after the supper hour.

The House recessed at 5:59 p.m.

CONTENTS

Tuesday May 5, 1981

Statements by the ministry

Miller, Hon. F. S., Treasurer and Minister of Economics:
Public officers' securities. . . . 353
IDEA Corporation. . . . 353

Oral questions

Baetz, Hon. R. C., Minister of Culture and Recreation:
Protection of artifacts, Mr. Foulds. . . . 364

Bennett, Hon. C. F., Minister of Housing:
Housing prices, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Epp. . . . 358

Davis, Hon. W. G., Premier:
Entrenchment of language rights, Mr. Roy. . . . 363

Elgie, Hon. R. G., Minister of Labour:
Skill training, Mr. Sweeney. . . . 361

Grossman, Hon. L. S., Minister of Industry and Tourism:
Harlequin Enterprises Limited, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Mancini. . . . 357

Leluk, Hon. N. G., Minister of Correctional Services:
Cornwall Jail, Mr. Samis. . . . 362

McMurtry, Hon. R. R., Attorney General and Solicitor General:
Hotel inspection, Mr. Smith, Mr. Breaugh, Mr. Nixon. . . . 356
Incorporation of citizens' groups, Mr. Epp, Ms. Bryden. . . . 364

Miller, Hon. F. S., Treasurer and Minister of Economics:
Interest rates, Mr. Smith, Mr. Cassidy. . . . 355

Norton, Hon. K. C., Minister of the Environment:
Acid rain, Mr. Cassidy. . . . 354
Ridge landfill site, Mr. McGuigan, Mr. Smith. . . . 360
Cleanup of spills, Mr. Charlton. . . . 362

Walker, Hon. G. W., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Provincial Secretary for Justice:
Florida lots, Mr. Breaugh. . . . 365

Welch, Hon. R. S., Minister of Energy:
Hydro rates, Mr. J. A. Reed. . . . 362

Minister's remarks, point of order, Mr. R. F. Johnston, Mr. Speaker. . . . 365

First readings

IDEA Corporation Act, Bill 47, Mr. F. S. Miller. . . . 365
Massey-Ferguson Limited Act, Bill 48, Mr. Grossman. . . . 365
Forest Resource Management Act, Bill 49, Mr. Foulds. . . . 366
Beer in the Ball Park Act, Bill 50, Mr. Samis. . . . 366

London Baptist Bible College and London Baptist Seminary Act, Bill Pr 10, Mr. Sweeney. 366
Change of Name Act, Bill 51, Mr. Epp. 366

Throne speech debate

Mr. Wrye. 366
Mr. Swart. 370
Mr. Stevenson. 376
Mr. Mancini. 382
Mr. Samis. 386
Recess. 391

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Baetz, Hon. R. C.; Minister of Culture and Recreation (Ottawa West PC)
Bennett, Hon. C. F.; Minister of Housing (Ottawa South PC)
Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
Copps, S. M. (Hamilton Centre L)
Cureatz, S. L.; Deputy Speaker (Durham East PC)
Davis, Hon. W. G.; Premier (Brampton PC)
Eaton, R. G. (Middlesex PC)
Epp, H. A. (Waterloo North L)
Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)
Gregory, Hon. M. E. C.; Minister without Portfolio (Mississauga East PC)
Grossman, Hon. L. S.; Minister of Industry and Tourism (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
Hennessy, M. (Fort William PC)
Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
Mancini, R. (Essex South L)
Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
McGuigan, J. F. (Kent-Elgin L)
McLean, A. K. (Simcoe East PC)
McMurtry, Hon. R. R.; Attorney General and Solicitor General (Eglinton PC)
Miller, Hon. F. S.; Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics (Muskoka PC)
Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
Norton, Hon. K. C.; Minister of the Environment (Kingston and the Islands PC)
Piché, R. L. (Cochrane North PC)
Reed, J. A. (Halton-Burlington L)
Riddell, J. K. (Huron-Middlesex L)
Roy, A. J. (Ottawa East L)
Ruston, R. F. (Essex North L)
Samis, G. R. (Cornwall NDP)
Sargent, E. C. (Grey-Bruce L)
Smith, S. L. (Hamilton West L)
Sterling, Hon. N. W.; Minister without Portfolio (Carleton-Grenville PC)

Stevenson, K. R. (Durham-York PC)
Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, J. (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
Timbrell, Hon. D. R.; Minister of Health (Don Mills PC)
Turner, Hon. J. M.; Speaker (Peterborough PC)
Van Horne, R. G. (London North L)
Walker, Hon. G. W.; Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Provincial Secretary for Justice (London South PC)
Wrye, W. M. (Windsor-Sandwich L)

Ontario

No. 12

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)

MAY 20 1981

First Session, Thirty-Second Parliament
Tuesday, May 5, 1981
Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

Hansard subscription price is $15.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Central Purchasing Service, Print Procurement Section, Ministry of Government Services, 8th Floor, Ferguson Block, Parliament Buildings, Toronto M7A 1N3. Phone (416) 965-2238.

Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, May 5, 1981

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE
(continued)

Resuming the debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, I would like to continue my speech from before the supper hour.

You may recall I left off talking about some of the things about contemporary politics in Ontario that I accept as part of the game. In this part of the speech I would like to talk about some of the things I definitely did not like about the recent campaign and that I personally take affront at and resent rather strongly.

First, I want to talk about what I consider to be the anti-French appeal used by the Conservative Party in this campaign. It was all focused on section 133. To me, it was a golden opportunity for the Premier (Mr. Davis) to back up his contention that he is a Canadian first and Ontarian second by proving that he would accept section 133 and its application to the people of this province. But what did he do? He refused the pleas of the Premier of New Brunswick, the leader of the Conservative Party in New Brunswick, the leader of the federal Conservative Party, the Leader of the Opposition in Quebec, the Prime Minister of Canada and the potential future leader of the federal Conservative Party and member for Rosedale.

Both opposition parties said they would agree to it, and yet the Premier refused to accept it. We both appealed to his sense of patriotism, national unity and brotherhood and said no one would make any issue out of it in this Legislature if he applied it to Ontario. One has to ask oneself why would he not do so. He had the appeal here in the Legislature. He had broad appeal across the country. It would be seen as a statesmanlike gesture, the extending of hands of brotherhood to Quebec and the rest of the country, but he refused.

I don't always like the use of the word, but I think Allan Fotheringham summed it up rather well on February 16 when he described the campaign orchestrated and conducted by the leader of the Conservative Party as sleazy in this matter. I would like to quote rather extensively from the article because I think it was awfully apropos.

"Expediency is the grease of all politics. Politicians love to call it practical or pragmatic or durable—the current buzzword—but what they mean is acting in a way that would get them votes, no matter how lofty the principle they invoke. Expediency is one thing. Sleaziness, that unseemly word, is another. But that seems the only charitable definition of the decision by Premier Bill Davis of Ontario to call an election during the coldest winter of this century.

"Is there a burning issue? Is there a governmental crisis? Yes, one could say. The burning issue is that the minority Conservative government has been told by its pollsters it can snatch a majority on the winds of racism, on the anti-frog vote. Bill Davis, that pink-cheeked, pipe-smoking exemplar of Brampton churchgoing, is the most expedient politician in Canada. Peter Lougheed is single-minded to the point of inflexibility. Pierre Trudeau is a prisoner of his own ego. René Lévesque is obsessed with giving his people equality with the lordly Anglos. But Bill Davis, smiling Bill Davis, is superior to all of them in his religiosity, his worshipping before the shrine of power—and what he will do to retain it. What he will do is not pleasant."

"To keep these burghers happy", Fotheringham goes on to say later in the article, "Bill Davis ensures that sophisticated Toronto is the only city in major league baseball where you are not allowed to buy a cup of beer. To keep these burghers happy, Bill Davis allows his film censors to ban Gunther Grass's The Tin Drum, a film that has won the Cannes Film Festival and an Academy award. To keep these burghers happy, Bill Davis is playing on the anti-French vote so as to win a majority in the March 19 election which will be played out in the winter slush, snow and sleaziness.

"In his expediency blueprint, Bill Davis has made a sotto voce deal with his political opposite, Liberal Pierre Trudeau," and he goes on to describe the extent of that—getting in bed with

Pierre Trudeau.

"Even better, Bill Davis supports Trudeau on the constitution. In return, Ottawa's Liberal-controlled constitutional committee last week approved a resolution allowing Ontario to wiggle out of section 133 guarantees. So Pierre Trudeau, who fought valiantly against René Lévesque's Bill 101, insisting that Quebec's anglophone minority retain their rights, refuses to insist that Bill Davis extend the same rights to his francophone minority. It is wheel and deal with principles. It is political Wintario. Bill Davis knows he has the last remnants of the Orange bigots. Ontario is one of the last places where they still have King Billy parades. It is all demeaning. It is—I don't like to use the word—sleazy."

I could not agree more heartily with what Fotheringham said. What I really resent about the campaign was that it was based on a calculated effort to appeal to the dark side of Ontario politics.

Mr. Rotenberg: Why does the member not say it himself. He is hiding behind Fotheringham.

Mr. Samis: I agree with everything Fothering-ham said if that sets the record straight for the honourable member across.

The Premier got up and raised the spectre of institutionalized bilingualism. What a phoney gesture that was. All 133 meant was putting in the constitution what he has already done in terms of the courts, in terms of language services and in terms of a variety of other things. It does not bring anything really new to the equation; it just puts it in the constitution as a fundamental guarantee. Why does he not have the guts to preach what he practises? When he goes and faces those Tory audiences why does he not have the guts to say, "This is what we have done in the last four years in terms of minority rights in Ontario?" No, sir. He gets up and raises the spectre of institutionalized bilingualism. What a fraud; what hypocrisy.

I want to quote from a journalist who attended the same college I did in Montreal, a journalist whom I respect, Ian MacDonald. He wrote two articles on the topic at the time of the controversy. One is called, "History Will Judge Davis's Stubborness On Language." The other is entitled, "History Is Likely To Find Ontario's Davis Is Wanting."

I just want to quote a few paragraphs from each column because I really think they are pertinent. He says: "The acceptance of section 133 by Ontario would not have infringed upon the rights of the province's English-speaking majority nor even inconvenienced them in any way. But Davis has made no attempt to explain this; no attempt to get in front of the issue; no attempt to provide moral leadership—no, sir. He was going to see that Ontarians didn't have French shoved down their throats. Give the man a box of unilingual corn flakes."

He goes on to say in the article: "Davis is prepared to accept minority language educational guarantees in the new constitution. In fact, he was in the forefront of those urging entrenchment. If he will buy that, why could he not accept the same guarantees for the courts and the Legislature when he was nearly up to full speed on the provision of services? The answer appears to be politics as usual. Better to provide services, he has argued, than to admit to a symbol, a symbol which would be a cause for rejoicing among both communities in Quebec, but cause for a backlash in the redneck communities of Ontario. The pity is the issue could have been won if it had been explained in terms which any thinking citizen could understand.

"David Crombie, the federal Conservative member from Toronto, who was an advocate of extending section 133, had a nice turn of phrase about Davis the other day, saying that the Ontario Premier wouldn't preach what he practised. In other words, Davis lacks the conviction of his courage, but he has won the day, and for that we are lesser people in a lesser land."

I also cite from MacDonald's second article. "You all remember Bill Davis. He came to Montreal during the referendum campaign and pranced around in the cloak of a statesman. On referendum night he was the first leader to make a televised statement minutes after the results had been indicated, expressing his willingness to go anywhere, anytime, with anyone to discuss constitutional reform. He did not even have the decency that night to wait for statements of the principals in the campaign."

As recently as last fall, a select committee of the Ontario Legislature came out in favour of section 133. Having been a member of that committee, I am rather proud of that recommendation and rather sorry of the performance of certain members opposite who refused to accept it.

The article goes on to say: "But the Ontario Premier worries about the backlash. For Davis it comes down to a simple question of moral leadership. His present posture may be advisable according to the polls, but intellectually it is fraudulent, morally untenable and potentially tragic, not just for the country but for Davis himself in the eyes of history.

"Of those who would be statesmen, statesmanship is required. Premier Davis can look up some examples of that if he cared to in the experience of the Baldwin-Lafontaine ministry."

8:10 p.m.

I could not agree more heartily with what my friend Ian MacDonald has said about the Premier of this province. Even Rene Brunelle has criticized the Premier for his linguistic policy. I can respect legitimate differences of opinion, especially on a strongly felt issue like this, but I would contend the Premier of this province deliberately abdicated the leadership mantle of the province, catered to the baser instincts of the people of Ontario and subtly and cleverly exploited this issue for the sake of partisan gain. As a politician, as a citizen, as a member of this Legislature and as a Canadian, I resent those practices in an election campaign.

I want to speak about a second issue that offends me as a resident, as a politician and as a Canadian. It is a very controversial issue, I know. It is the homosexual issue. Let me state I have intense personal ambivalence about the whole question. I realize it is a very difficult, sensitive question.

When I read in the papers—I am not a Toronto member—about those raids on the bath houses in Toronto, the first thing that hit my curiosity and bugged me as well was the timing of them. I said: "Is it really a coincidence those bath house raids all took place during an election campaign when in this Legislature we all knew that was one of the most crucial issues underneath the surface of Ontario politics? Was it a coincidence the raids took place in the city of Toronto where it is an extremely emotional issue?"

It really struck home when someone said that was the largest single roundup and series of arrests of Canadians since the War Measures Act in 1970. I really asked myself, "Was it all a coincidence it was done in the first or second week of this election campaign?" When I came back here after the election I talked to some of my Toronto colleagues about the campaign. We shared our experiences, and they started talking about some of the tactics that were used against them, especially in ridings like Riverdale, Beaches-Woodbine and some of the Scarborough ridings. Some of the tactics, in my book anyway, were nothing more than despicable, crude and deceitful in nature and content.

I emphasize it is a difficult, sensitive issue. I respect there are legitimate differences of opinion on it, probably legitimate fears on both sides of the issue. But I really feel, looking back on the campaign and having talked to some of my colleagues, that this government deliberately exploited the issue and catered to people's fears, rather than make any attempt whatsoever to deal with it sensitively or dispassionately.

A third aspect of the campaign that bothers me is what I thought was pass¢ in Ontario, if not Canadian politics. I ascribed it to the dark, dirty days of the McCarthy era and to some remnants running around this province in certain selected ridings. But when I came back after the campaign and talked to a few of our people—and I emphasize that—and when in certain isolated ridings I heard that certain of our candidates had to put up with red scare McCarthy-type tactics, all I could think of was gutter politics, that any party in 1981 would have to resort to that kind of politicking. We are the most obvious candidates if they are going to do it, but even if they had done it to the Liberal Party or any independent candidate, I still think it is reprehensible, repugnant, repulsive, unacceptable politics in 1981.

Another aspect of the campaign that bothered me, not as badly as the others because it was more respectable, was that somehow they tried to convey—

Mr. Rotenberg: If I ever heard of McCarthyism, slamming everybody.

Mr. Samis: I will give my friend two ridings where it was used, Brantford and Algoma. Talk to our candidates and come back and tell me it was not used. I challenge the member to do that. He hasn't got the guts to do it.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Mr. Samis has the floor.

Mr. Samis: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Somehow the way the leader of the Conservative Party tries to identify—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Mr. Samis, we may have a point of privilege here. Would you be so kind as to listen to the point of privilege?

Mr. Gillies: I think there is a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I heard something said about my riding. I am afraid I didn't quite catch it, but I am sure that it was very unfortunate in tone and I would not mind hearing it repeated.

The Deputy Speaker: I don't find that that is a point of privilege.

Mr. Samis: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me just say for the benefit of the new member for

Brantford that I in no way ascribe this to the candidates in the two ridings I mentioned. But I do tell him, having talked to the two members for those two ridings, that they were on the receiving end. Neither one of them has alleged it had anything to do with the candidates, but certain people in the opposition did resort to certain tactics of that nature against them.

Mr. Gillies: A point of privilege, Mr. Speaker. In that the honourable member is referring to my riding and that there is certainly some insinuation that I or my campaign had something to do with that, I would ask him to withdraw the remark.

The Deputy Speaker: Mr. Gillies, I don't find any reference to you personally in terms of your carrying on the campaign.

Mr. Samis: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I can get back to the fourth point and continue, I resent the way the Premier of this province tries—and he does it very cleverly, very subtly and, I have to confess, very effectively—to identify the concept of monarchy, of deity, of country and of family as somehow being synonymous with a particular party in this province to the exclusion of the other parties.

It is nice to put on the drapes, the trappings or the robes of God or Queen or family or Canada or whatever one wants, but I just think somehow the way it is being used at election time is cheapening, brazen and shameless. I really think our political process would be better if all parties were to cease and desist from donning those mantles because I tend to think we are all good, decent Canadians, and none of us has to resort to that to try to emphasize our patriotism or our loyality.

I emphasize that when I talk about those four issues. I don't say it as a case of sour grapes. I would emphasize that I have participated now as a candidate in four general elections since I entered political life. Based on that experience, plus one by-election, I have to look back at this campaign as the sleaziest of all four and say that I really resent some of that tactics that were used.

I accept the fact the government won its majority. I accept the fact the electorate decided 44 per cent that it wanted that particular party in power. But I just say that while the government did win, I don't think it won with any dignity or any class when it resorted to some of those tactics. The Parti Québecois won a majority in Québec, but I would point out it didn't have to resort to any of those tawdry tactics.

There are certain tactics, as I said before supper, that are acceptable and legitimate in the political process, but the four I referred to this evening I regard as repulsive. I sometimes wonder why people are cynical about politics, politicians and electoral processes, but after this campaign I think some of it is richly deserved.

Turning to the contents of the throne speech—and I want to go through it fairly quickly—I think the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program within the substance of the throne speech was essentially just a rehash. To me, the BILD program was an election program rather than an economic program. I suspect it originated more in the minds and hearts of people like Eddie Goodman, Hugh Segal and American Research Company than in those of any civil servant, any economist or any group of consultants. I ask myself, "If this is the economic strategy for the 1980s, why was it revealed about 10 days prior to the election campaign?"

I notice even the Globe and Mail said, "It was a case of classical impudence, with a sad disregard for the intelligence of the voters." If one looks at the Hollywood-style setting, it seems as if the thing should have been done in Pasadena or some other place, the Royal Alex or the O'Keefe Centre, not here at Queen's Park. It is rather hard to take it seriously when one sees it announced in such circumstances in such a setting.

Essentially it is a grab bag. It offers some new hardware and some recycled promises from the past. Whenhear talk of an auto parts centre being promised in either Niagara Falls or Chatham, or a microelectronics centre in either Cambridge or Ottawa, we have to ask ourselves what kind of economic planning is that to say either in X or Y, either in A or B, when we all know the real reason is that it depends on the election results. It is all cleverly designed to suit that.

8:20 p.m.

With regard to most of the promises, especially about the railways, the highways, the ferries, as an eastern Ontario member I noticed the vast bulk of the goodies went to the Toronto region. Eastern Ontario just got the crumbs from the table. We are already a slow growth region, but sometimes I wonder—we are mainly Tory with some exceptions in eastern Ontario—whether the government assumes because we are politically safe it does not have to give us anything. For example, I notice in my own riding the BILD program amounted to a prom-

ise for a $1-million amusement park. I heard the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Leluk) tell me today, "We cannot replace your outdated, overcrowded jail because we do not have the money." Yet six weeks ago they were saying in my riding, "Put us in and we will guarantee you an amusement park."

Then I have to confess my Liberal candidate said that the PC candidate in Leeds had been quoted in the Brockville paper as saying he was going to have an amusement park in his riding. Then the PC candidate in my riding backed off and said, "It is going to be somewhere between the Quebec border and Brockville. I cannot promise you where, just somewhere in between." That is what the BILD program meant in our riding.

One of the pertinent features in regard to the BILD program in the throne speech is what was not contained in it. If we look in the papers today or talk to people, one of the most pressing concerns and issues is the whole question of interest rates and mortgages. There is no real help in the BILD program for small business, which is suffering terribly from the high interest rates. There is no real help or initiatives for agriculture even though we have a 77 per cent increase in bankruptcies among our farmers in the first three months of 1981.

I look at what Quebec was doing prior to its election. I see they offered to sweeten the pot in terms of low-interest loans by offering substantial loans for new farmers and existing farmers. They have a $3-billion deficit and they can still do it. Here in Ontario we are supposed to be a wealthy province compared to Quebec but we cannot do it. Somehow we just do not seem to be interested enough to do it.

Then we look at the problem of the home buyers. Last year we came out with a program. My colleague the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) outlined a reasonable, moderate economic plan to aid home buyers, especially for people with incomes under $25,000; yet we see no initiative on that side. The prime rate, I understand, is at 19 per cent in the USA today. Mortgage rates are now up to 17.5 per cent for five-year rates. Bank profits are up 60 per cent in the first quarter of this year. Trust company profits are up 90 per cent in the first quarter of this year. I notice in the Financial Post of last week talk about prime of upwards of 21 per cent in the USA.

I quote from Henry Kauffman, general partner of the US investment house of Salomon Brothers, who repeated his long-held solemn view that both the US prime and bond rates would be higher than last year. If he is correct, as he often is, the US prime will be above 21.5 per cent, while top quality corporations borrowing money through bonds will have to pay about 16 per cent for the privilege.

Albert Singlinger, economic consultant and publisher of the Pennsylvania-based Singlinger Letter, says, "We are on the way to new records because we are in an era of hyperinflation." Singlinger has described his track record as "almost so accurate it scares me." He says the US prime will rise to 21 to 22 per cent, stay flat for a month or so, then take a sharp increase to 28 to 30 per cent towards the end of this year. It is now, as I say, approaching 19 per cent.

How does that augur for the future of Ontario for home buyers, for small business, for people just trying to struggle with increased costs of living? Tight money means to the average man in the street simple things: bankruptcy, economic recession, layoffs and hardship, frequently for the people least able to endure these hardships. The province is not helpless. I will admit sometimes these are bromides and sometimes they are short term, but the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Henderson) could be doing something to help farmers if he wanted to. He could be doing what they do in Quebec, in Saskatchewan or in Alberta to help farmers caught in the squeeze between rising costs and the cost of money in our society, but he does not.

We could be doing something for small business. One of the arguments used against this is that there is no money available, that there is only so much money to go around. People in my riding look at it and ask: "No money? Where did the money come from for the Premier's $275 million in promises in the recent election campaign? Where did the $250 million come from in the fall mini-budget with all those goodies? Where did the $11 million come from for the Minaki Lodge disaster project? Where did the $14 million come from for the 'preserve it, conserve it' Tory re-election campaign on TV? Where did the money come from for the $100 million giveaway to the pulp and paper companies?" It is nonsense. The money is there. It is a question of priorities. Who gets it? Who does the government want to help—the big industries, the big corporations or the ordinary people of this province?

The throne speech and the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program really did not specify where half of the $1.5

billion is really going to come from. Obviously, the province only puts up $750 million over five years. There is no guarantee at all that the feds, the private sector or the municipalities would put up the rest.

Take something like railways, for example. They talk about electrification and improving the track beds. Railways are essentially federal. When we talk about the Quebec to Windsor corridor, it is totally federal. It is nice for the government to have a back-bencher come out with a report advocating electrification. It is nice for the BILD program to advocate it. But the fact is it is a federal jurisdiction in the first place.

They talk about shipyards, allotting, I think, $50 million for the shipbuilding program in Ontario. How much does the government of Ontario pay? It pays $12.5 million. Where does the rest come from? It comes from the private sector and the feds. And so it goes. How much credibility can one attach to such a program? What consultation was there with the private sector or with the feds? Can one take a program like this seriously?

One of the key issues in my campaign in our riding was the whole question of the priorities of this government, especially as related to health services. In the throne speech there was virtually no mention of reversing the priorities about cutbacks. In our riding we have had 200 beds cut back, staff reduced and service reduced. Yet they keep telling us, "There is no money. We have to go ahead and do this."

The people in my riding want a stop put to that. They feel the cutbacks have gone too far. They feel people matter more. Health received a very low priority in the throne speech, and there is no indication of any change in those priorities. There are more giveaways to the corporate sector but more cutbacks and more squeezes for the ordinary people of this province.

BILD does not deal with the problem of foreign ownership. It does not deal with the structural problems of our economy. It does not deal with the question of import replacement. It perpetuates the idea of global product mandating so passionately embraced by the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Grossman). It does not come to terms with the scandalous problem of our shortage of skilled workers.

It continues corporate giveaways. It perpetuates the idea of centring development in the Golden Horseshoe. It displays no meaningful regional economic initiatives for eastern or northern Ontario. Essentially, it is a slick, brassy, flashy, brazen attempt to win votes and to give the appearance of a true economic program. I suspect it will be as quickly forgotten as the Brampton charter of the last election campaign with its plethora of half-fulfilled and forgotten promises.

In the meantime, the people of this province had better be prepared for the government's real policy which will be disclosed on May 19. Inevitably, for the average person in this province that will involve higher taxes, higher OHIP premiums and higher service charges because that is the real Tory policy and the real Tory program.

In conclusion, the BILD program was conceived more out of electoral expediency and slick merchandizing than sound, detailed economic planning. It is a program that does not merit public support. I look forward to seeing the government's real economic program on May 19. It is in the budget, not the throne speech or any election manifesto, where we will discover the government's real priorities and policies.

8:30 p.m.

Mr. Dean: Mr. Speaker, as one of the new members of this distinguished Legislature, and representing the riding of Wentworth, it is an honour and a privilege for me to address the assembly. May I join my colleagues in congratulating the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker on their appointments and in assuring them of my full co-operation in any measures they may take to improve the conduct and effectiveness of this House.

First of all, I would like to extend my greatest appreciation both to my constituents, who had confidence in my ability to represent them positively at Queen's Park, and to the people of Ontario as a whole for giving our party a clear mandate to lead this province to realizing its economic potential in the 1980s. The riding of Wentworth has been an NDP stronghold since 1967. No, let me rephrase that; that is too positive a description. My riding has suffered through NDP representation since 1967.

I am pleased now that the people of this great riding chose our Progressive Conservative Party and our proposals to lead them into the next decade. Having been involved in municipal politics in Stoney Creek for many years, I have been a strong advocate of responsible government, local autonomy for our communities and regional growth. These goals will continue to guide my performance at Queen's Park.

I am proud to be here today. I am proud to be part of this government and to support fully the proposals of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program as outlined by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor in the speech from the throne. I believe that Ontario has a great future. This government has a program of positive economic and social benefit for all the people of Ontario. We have a challenge to meet in the 1980s, a challenge to confront the problems of a modern industrialized society.

The BILD program is a sound economic package that is capable of addressing our economic needs and stimulating our economic growth rate. The BILD program reaffirms our commitment to the economic and social progress of all the people of Ontario. I am strongly confident that the BILD proposals will launch Ontario upon a massive industrial program that will create new jobs, reduce the effect of inflation, increase trade and improve productivity.

Business and industry are rapidly moving into a new technological era. Our government through BILD is providing the incentive for an aggressive research and development program so that Ontario can compete more effectively in an increasingly competitive environment. Similarly, the other sectors of the economy—agriculture, tourism and transportation, to mention only a few—will equally benefit from the BILD proposals.

BILD is a comprehensive and essential program because it encompasses all the vital sectors of the economy and allows all the areas of the province to reach their economic potential. I am convinced that my region, Hamilton-Wentworth, as well as the other regions of the province will benefit from the BILD program.

Mr. Riddell: The guy that is talking does not know whether he is a Liberal or a Tory. Back in 1967 he was a Liberal.

The Deputy Speaker: Mr. Riddell, Mr. Dean has the floor. I would remind you—Mr. Nixon reminded us—that you gave us your load last week. Mr. Dean, please continue with the debate.

Mr. Dean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is true, as the self-appointed expediter in the front row over there says, that at one time I had some inclination towards being a Liberal, but I soon saw the light.

The Hamilton-Wentworth region is the single largest demographic and economic unit in southwestern Ontario with a population in the area of 500,000. Centrally located, the region is at the hub of the road, rail, air and water transportation network which serves North America's economic heartland. Is that news to some of the honourable members? I am not surprised if it is, for in the past our contingent of negative MPPs from the Hamilton-Wentworth area have rarely had anything positive to say about their own home region. They have only managed to create a negative morale for my people.

Mr. Wildman: The member is so graceful in victory.

Mr. Dean: The member should see me when I am not.

Our local economy is spearheaded by its manufacturing sector, followed closely by the service industries. Led by the two largest steelmaking complexes in Canada, the manufacturing industries have shown sustained growth in employment, in technological upgrading and improvement of productivity. The steel industry in particular has shown an impressive record of success. It is even more evident when compared with the dismal record of the United States steel firms and when one considers the intense competition in international markets. It is a much-envied fact that Stelco is the most efficient steel producer in the world.

Although manufacturing is the largest employer in my area, employing 32 per cent of the total work force, the service industries, public administration, transportation and trade industries have grown rapidly, providing diversification. This diversified structure constitutes the base for future economic expansion in the Hamilton-Wentworth region.

Statistics indicate the economy of this region is going to do better than the Ontario economy on the average. For example, in 1979 manufacturing employment alone grew by 6.2 per cent, creating an addition of close to 4,500 jobs. This growth is largely attributed to the industrial base of the region, plus anticipated strengths in the retail and construction sectors, as well as growth in the output of the steel, metal-fabricating and machinery industries.

The city of Hamilton is by far the largest section of the region in terms of population and industrial concentration. Divided into two levels by the Niagara Escarpment, the lower level borders on Lake Ontario and Burlington Bay and contains much of the heavy industry, commerce, office and residential development. The upper portion, referred to as Hamilton Mountain, is mostly a residential area.

Both Hamilton's downtown and mountain

have been undergoing a process of rapid transformation in recent years. The downtown core has seen the construction of the Lloyd D. Jackson Square, a modern shopping centre with adjacent office towers. Limeridge Mall, one of the largest shopping centres in Canada, totalling about one million square feet of retail space, is opening this year on Hamilton Mountain. It is in my riding of Wentworth. Estimated to cost $6 million, Limeridge Mall will have a significant impact on the retail industry of the region, creating 2,500 new jobs.

Located in the heart of the city is Hamilton Place, a worldrenowned theatre auditorium attracting such stars as Liberace, Tom Jones, Harry Belafonte, our own Anne Murray and hundreds of others. The most recent additions to the city include the magnificently designed art gallery, central library and the new convention centre.

The five other municipalities in our region—Ancaster, Dundas, Flamborough, Glanbrook and Stoney Creek—add significantly to the diversity of the region. My own riding of Wentworth encompasses the mountain section of Hamilton and the municipalities of Stoney Creek and Glanbrook.

Having been born and raised in Stoney Creek, I am particularly proud of this beautiful lakeside community with its unusual melding of urban and rural atmospheres. Sliced into two vertical sections by the Niagara Escarpment, the town has concentrated virtually all of the industry and much of the housing on the lower plain, while agriculture still remains a significant activity above the escarpment. I especially remember the tranquillity and beauty of the area's fruit orchards and its beaches and the escarpment when I am fighting the traffic of Toronto.

Stoney Creek's historic past acts as a cohesive force within the community and is a source of pride to all our residents. Stoney Creek was a key battleground in the War of 1812 and a decisive turning point for the British forces. Had the outcome of the Battle of Stoney Creek been different, we might be delegates to Washington rather than Toronto but, on the other hand, we might not have had a third party.

8:40 p.m.

A towering stone monument commemorating this decisive battle sits atop a high elevation in Battlefield Park in Stoney Creek to honour those of both sides who died in the battle. This acknowledges the peace and goodwill that have existed between Canada and the United States of America for almost 170 years.

Stoney Creek as a modern community is the fastest growing district of Hamilton-Wentworth region with its unique blend of business, light industry, housing and shopping centres. Its attractiveness to industry is demonstrated by the presence of numerous manufacturing and allied industries, covering the spectrum from textiles to steel. The area can also accommodate new demands for industrial lands. For example, the 1,000-acre, fully-serviced corridor south of the Queen Elizabeth Way is zoned as an industrial park.

To provide housing accommodation for the present and future industrial potential of this area, the municipalities of my riding, Stoney Creek, Glanbrook and Hamilton, have taken advantage of public and private initiatives to encourage the development of prime residential areas. I am particularly pleased with the Heritage Green project of the Ontario Land Corporation. On April 14 the Ontario Land Corporation unveiled this exciting concept for developing its lands in the town of Stoney Creek. The proposal calls for the creation of a leisure-oriented community, to be called Heritage Green, which will integrate lower-density housing into an extensive open-space system.

The 1,600-acre site will provide land uses for employment opportunities as well as other uses and provide a focus for the community. The emphasis will be on creating a viable and diversified community, offering existing and new residents a wider range of urban facilities. One of these is a community commercial shopping area, another an 18-hole golf course as a complement to the major community recreational complex already proposed by the town of Stoney Creek and scheduled to be ready for use in 1982. Provision is also made in the development concept for business, office and industrial park development along the west and south sides of the new community in association with similar development in the city of Hamilton and the township of Glanbrook. I just state those things to demonstrate how co-operation between agencies of the provincial government and municipalities can produce beneficial results.

Glanbrook, the other section of the riding, is largely a rural district with many fine dairy and mixed farms. This community offers opportunities for housing and beginning industries, while safeguarding unspoiled conservation areas and some of Ontario's most productive farm land. The future of Glanbrook includes the proposed $100-million expansion of Hamilton Civic Airport. This expansion, to be staged over a

number of years, will have a substantial impact on Glanbrook as businesses are generated by the presence of the new facilities.

The commitment of the federal government to expand this airport was announced July 31, 1980, finally, by the Honourable Jean-Luc Pepin. Major elements of the expansion program include a new 8,000 by 200-foot runway with taxiway and aprons, a new instrument landing system and associated runway approach lighting, an expanded air terminal building and associated facilities, a new airport electrical centre and a new traffic control tower.

The area is richly endowed in many ways, as I have pointed out. Economically the region can expect to experience steady growth and expansion. Culturally, the area has buried its lunchbucket image. Hamilton-Wentworth region will continue to grow and prosper and the BILD program will greatly enhance the economic growth of my riding and our region.

In the evening session of the Legislature on Thursday, April 30, my colleague the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps) argued that the BILD program offered only petty promises to the Hamilton-Wentworth region. If I may, I would like to show the real facts by briefly commenting on some of the advantages of the BILD proposals in stimulating the existing economic potential of this region.

The government plans to allocate $400 million for new initiatives in transportation. Part of this package includes support for the $90-million intermediate capacity transit system in Hamilton-Wentworth which will connect Hamilton's downtown area with the residential district of Hamilton Mountain. This more efficient and rapid urban commuter system will accommodate the expected increase in transit use as well as prompt less use of the private automobile, thereby saving much very precious fuel. Discussion is under way in the region regarding the impact of this system in the Hamilton area. Before any plans are launched, I intend to recommend that the government undertake a comprehensive study into the implications for the community to ensure minimum adverse impact on the residents.

The government's commitment in transportation does not end here. The people of Hamilton-Wentworth, as well as all Ontarians, will benefit from the financial incentives to encourage transition to new and more abundant motor fuels and long-term investment of radial road improvements on such highways as 403, 407 and 410. In my own riding the government has already initiated the twinning of the Burlington Bay Skyway bridge in order to eliminate the troublesome bottleneck on the Queen Elizabeth Way and improve freight and passenger travel.

I hardly need point out the long-term stimulus these projects will have on the construction industry and the affiliated supplier industries. The Urban Transportation Development Corporation's current project alone will generate 3,500 man-years of work in Ontario and 5,000 to 6,000 man-years of work in Canada. The proposed rail improvements will create jobs in construction, primary and fabricated metals, electrical machinery and concrete products.

In the resource sector the government's goal is to assure long-term supplies and thus maximize the economic benefit from its resource base. To this end, the province plans to invest in development projects totalling $400 million in the agriculture, forestry and mining sectors.

Ontario can strengthen its agricultural base through the BILD proposals. Over the past years Ontario fruit and vegetable farmers have had to face serious competition from imported produce. The BILD program will give our farmers a fighting chance to replace a significant portion of the more than $600 million of fruit and vegetables imported into the province annually.

This government is committed to three key initiatives in the agricultural sector: investments in food processing, expansion of storage facilities and the upgrading of farm land. Hamilton-Wentworth, among others, will greatly benefit from expanded food processing facilities. I strongly favour the government's proposal to co-invest in new enterprises to stimulate the necessary capital expansion in products such as canned fruit, tomato paste and specialty meat products.

One of my closest neighbours in the community where I live is E. D. Smith and Sons, an all-Canadian company with a solid record of 99 years in business in the Wentworth community. This firm has welcomed the proposals in the BILD program and has already made inquiries as to how it can co-operate with BILD. The company has annual sales of $60 million and employs 350 people, a figure which expands to almost double that number in the summer months.

This company is representative of the food processing industry in the Niagara fruit belt area. High inflationary rates, compounded with high interest rates, are creating economic strains on many of these companies. Government

assistance through BILD is essential if this sector is to experience continued growth. I could say more about BILD and the fruit and vegetable industry, but my colleague the member for Lincoln (Mr. Andrewes) will be speaking in more detail about how this program will benefit the agricultural industry, especially in relation to fruit production. By extending the effective marketing period for Ontario produce and by expanding the storage facilities for perishable crops, a significant proportion of imported crops can be replaced by domestically grown produce.

During the recent election campaign many of us heard a great deal about the virtues of local cabbage versus imported cabbage. I wouldn't want in the slightest way to detract from the message that cabbage is very important, but the only thing that happens when cabbage spoils is one gets sauerkraut. While I love sauerkraut, I think I would prefer to save the grapes, the apples, the peaches, the pears and things like that which, if they are allowed to spoil in a certain way, produce much more beneficial results than sauerkraut. I believe these proposals would greatly enhance the government's goal of agricultural self-sufficiency.

8:50 p.m.

The Ontario government is also committed to expanding its investment in our greatest resource—people. Ontario's industrial future depends on the proper management of our human resources. As we move through the 1980s, the nature of our work force will change. Statistical trends show the average age of workers will increase and women will take a more prominent position in our work force. These changes will be accompanied by fundamental economic shifts. As our economy adapts to higher prices, to the challenge of alternative energy sources, to competitive international markets and to revolutionary technological changes, our labour force must also adapt.

New occupational requirements and new skill opportunities are necessary if Ontario is to continue to grow. This government has pledged $200 million over the next five years for long-term manpower initiatives to enhance the skills of our people. These initiatives will be aimed at developing skills, retraining existing manpower to adapt to changing technology and establishing closer links between educational institutions and the work place.

There is no doubt an expanded skills training program is essential to enhance economic growth. Ontario is currently experiencing shortages in key skills such as machinists, tool and die makers, millwrights and machinery repair mechanics. These industrial skills must be learned on the job under apprenticeship to existing trained workers. Our government intends to meet on a one-to-one basis with the 50 largest employers, who do not currently train to self-sufficiency requirements, in order to establish industrial training programs.

If industry fails to undertake the necessary on-the-job training, this government will propose that the federal government make it mandatory for industry to invest in apprenticeship training. The annual budget of the existing training in business and industry program, TIBI for short, is expanded under the BILD program from $3.5 million to $8.5 million, a cost-sharing program developed over the past years as a co-operative, involving employers, employees and the province. TIBI is a highly successful program which enables firms to retrain employees where skills have been made redundant by changes in technology. I am proud that this government is prepared to take such initiatives in improving the contribution of our educational institutions in skills development and industrial research.

My own alma mater McMaster University has gained a reputation in nuclear research, engineering and health sciences and will consequently benefit from any proposals aimed at improving its research facilities. Similarly, apprenticeship programs at Mohawkollege of Applied Arts and Technology will benefit equally. These manpower initiatives by this government will complement and improve the already established network of co-operation in the Hamilton-Wentworth area among local industry, labour, government and the academic institutions.

HITAC, which means Hamilton Industrial Training Advisory Committee—it should really be called WHITAC because Wentworth should be in there too—will play a vital role in encouraging and co-ordinating present and future industrial training programs and resources to benefit industry and labour in my riding and in the entire Hamilton-Wentworth area.

This initiative, originally from businessmen and educators in the Hamilton-Wentworth area, has been fully supported by our government, another example that we listen to what people are saying and respond positively.

Communities under the BILD program will further be assisted in their efforts to attract new economic development and to create new job opportunities by strengthening local develop-

ment capacities and upgrading existing infrastructure. Altogether, the province proposes $200 million of community initiatives over the next five years.

To increase business-related tourism, the government is helping to finance convention centres in Toronto, Ottawa and Hamilton. The short-term economic benefits from construction of convention centres include not only direct construction jobs, but also spinoffs in hotel construction and commercial development. The long-term benefits include a strengthening of the hospitality industry in Ontario and a decrease in our tourism deficit. For example, the Hamilton Convention Centre will not only provide facilities for major conventions and expositions, but will generate employment opportunities and stimulate the tourism and hospitality industries in the region.

Before concluding my remarks on the proposals in the throne speech, I would like to address the issue of health care in Wentworth riding. In order to meet the demands of health care in this rapidly growing area, I have been working for many years with local community groups to secure the construction of adequate hospital facilities in Stoney Creek and east Hamilton. A hospital within the borders of the riding of Wentworth is needed to provide the necessary emergency care, acute care and convalescent care for our citizens.

I recognize and I applaud the government's commitment to providing strong support for health care. I also strongly believe that the Ontario health care system is second to none and I am committed to ensuring that its benefits are extended in full measure to the residents of the riding of Wentworth. In this same vein, the Ministry of Health is constantly improving efficiency in health facilities by increased local planning through district health councils.

The Hamilton-Wentworth District Health Council, for example, is an umbrella organization under which all the health care facilities of the region are sheltered. Its aims are to identify health needs, to correlate programs to fill those needs and to co-ordinate existing and future care programs to ensure effective, balanced and economical services. Provincial funding for health care facilities results from the recommendations of this district health council. It is one of my top priorities to ensure that its recommendations include not only the best health care facilities for Stoney Creek and east Hamilton, but also adequate land for future expansion of such facilities.

The township of Glanbrook is in a somewhat different position. The residents in this area have access now to excellent treatment, rehabilitation and convalescent facilities at Chedoke Hospital. Currently, the district health council is reviewing the redevelopment of this fine institution as part of the Chedoke-McMaster unit. In order that the residents of Glanbrook will keep their familiar and highly regarded active treatment centre at Chedoke, I intend to push for the retention of that facility.

In conclusion, I believe, as I said before, that Ontario has a great future. I believe that the life of each Ontarian can be positively enhanced and developed. Contrary to the allegations of some of the prophets of doom and gloom that we have a sluggish economy, we have a sound economic base in Ontario that we can further develop.

I must admit, however, that I have grown weary in the past days of debate as I have listened to honourable members of the opposition purveying their pious platitudes on what they perceive as their monopoly on human justice and social betterment. That holier-than-thou assumption that nobody other than themselves is sensitive to the needs and concerns of the people of Ontario is arrogance of the worst kind. By contrast, the government of this province, led by the Premier (Mr. Davis), is sensitive to the needs of its citizens and does provide effective social policies.

I would have thought that even the members of the opposition would have accepted the solid endorsement of this government's programs from the people of Ontario on March 19. Is it possible that many of those members are still dazed by their dismal showing and are only dimly aware of what is going on? In order to have these effective social programs, we need adequate funding, which requires balancing the economics of the province. I am convinced it is not this government, but the opposition that is insensitive to the complexities of raising funds so that we can make realities of good social programs.

A motion of no confidence is before the members of this assembly. I urge all the members to reject such an untimely motion and to accept the proposals of the throne speech and the BILD initiatives as a comprehensive and sound package in stimulating economic growth in all sectors of the economy in all the regions of Ontario.

9 p.m.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity of saying a few brief words in these circumstances, although I am a bit disappointed when I look at the back row of the Tory benches. The attendance was much better in the earlier days of this session and I am somewhat disappointed that the members have already found that the admonitions of the whip, who is now a minister, of course, have been dulled. I am somewhat disappointed that his effectiveness is weakening. He is going to have to get tougher with that crew.

I am glad the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Grossman) is here this evening, because obviously we are going to get a few words from him. How laughable to think he has leadership aspirations. There is hope for all of them in the back bench. Just look at the front row and look at the Minister of Industry and Tourism. They must think to themselves that there is hope for all of them. Larry, what does the survey say?

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Order, we are responding to the speech from the throne, Mr. Roy. Would you please continue your speech.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, my first words of gratitude, obviously, are to the people in my riding. You realize of course, Mr. Speaker, that when I stand here in the House I don't have to be ashamed, I don't have to be bashful, because 70 per cent ofthe people of Ottawa East have sent me back to this place. That is a mandate in the face of a sleazy campaign, as the member for Cornwall (Mr. Samis) called it, and the comment is not without some merit.

I intend to say a few brief words about Omer, our friend the opposition, the man the Conservatives bought for this last election, their candidate in Ottawa East. I want to express my gratitude to the voters of Ottawa East in the face of overwhelming advertising, money, a cynical campaign or, as my colleague said, a sleazy campaign, distorting the issues. The Conservatives tried to buy the election, Mr. Speaker—and I don't want to offend you because you seem a pleasant enough individual. As I said on the night the campaign was over, I respect the voters; the Conservatives bought it fair and square.

In spite of this, the people of Ottawa East and the people who assisted me in this campaign were not taken in by the advertisement, the jingle, "Let's keep the promise." I must admit it was so effective that when I would get home, even my daughter was singing that thing, "Let's keep the promise."

The Tories sold the Premier (Mr. Davis) like ketchup. I want to say to the minister who thinks he has such potential, they sold Richard Nixon in the US. If one has sufficient money, one can sell anything.

Interjections.

Mr. Roy: I say to the Minister of Industry and Tourism, any time he wants to go for the leadership, if he will let me know I will be his first supporter. That is the best thing that could happen to those of us on this side, that he should run for the leadership.

Having thanked the voters of Ottawa East, I say to them they will continue to get the effective and aggressive representation that is needed in the face of this arrogant bunch across the way. They will get it. We won't back off. We will continue to fight and we won't apologize for anything. I can say to them that the representation will continue and I am extremely grateful for the opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I should traditionally congratulate you on your election as Speaker of this House, but before I proceed I must say that I was disappointed by the Premier and the people on the other side that they did not see fit to keep the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) as Speaker. I have watched a number of Speakers, his predecessors; I have watched the office change and become more relevant, and the fact is the member for Lake Nipigon, and I do not want to spend too much time on this, saw to it that he gave the office a stature it had never before attained, at least during my period here.

I think it is important that this stature be maintained, and I think it would have been a gesture that would have given far more relevance to the process in this place had the Premier and the party on the other side seen fit to keep that Speaker. But the Premier having made this decision to ask you, Mr. Speaker, to accept this very difficult task, I must say to you it will not be easy. First of all you are facing a majority government, and you are facing a government that will at times, and we are seeing it now, attempt in some ways to intimidate you.

Mr. Speaker, effective Speakers, whether in the federal House or in other legislatures or in other assemblies, are by and large those who are not well liked by the government. That is a fact. One only has to look to the federal House to see, for instance, that Michener, who was a very

good and effective Speaker, was not exactly in Diefenbaker's good books, and that Lamoureux, who was extremely effective as well, was not exactly in Pearson's and the Liberal administration's good books.

The fact is that if continuity is going to be given to this office, if the effectiveness and the respect the chair deserves are going to be continued in this place, you are going to have to understand that you must not be intimidated, that your independence is sacred, and that you must show fairness and objectivity towards all members in this House.

I quite appreciate that those of us on this side attempt by way of points of order, points of privilege and so on sometimes to abuse the rules of the House. But the fact is that I think we will be prepared to abide by your admonition if we see there is fairness in the process, that when ministers get up—and the Minister of Industry and Tourism is probably the main offender; especially if he hears music in the background he can go on forever; he thinks he is still on radio and he goes on. Even the member for Ottawa South (Mr. Bennett) gets voluble when he is talking about government, and another one is the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Walker).

So, Mr. Speaker, you will see that in the federal House when the Prime Minister takes too much time on a question or responds to whatever interjections might take place he is cut off by the Speaker, and you are going to have to do the same thing in this place. You will earn not only the respect of the members on this side, but the respect of the members on the other side. I invite you to accept this responsibility, and if you take this attitude you will get the full support of the members on this side.

9:10 p.m.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, you would not want me to spend an undue amount of time in a speech without saying a few words in French to the electorate and to the people of Ontario who have been so generous and to some of my colleagues across the way.

Je voudrais premièrement, Monsieur l'Orateur, remercier les électeurs du comté d'Ottawa Est. Encore une fois, j'ai reçu un mandat, Monsieur l'Orateur, qui me donne un enthousiasme fantastique et, avec ce genre d'appui-là, on revient ici à Queen's Park, même si à différentes reprises on n'est pas tellement heureux d'être du côté de l'opposition, mais tout de même c'est le mandat qu'on a reçu. Et avec le mandat que je reçois du comté d'Ottawa Est, je ne me gêne pas de dire que je n'ai pas besoin de faire d'excuses à personne.

Les gens du comté qui m'ont donné ce genre de mandat peuvent être assurés encore une fois d'une représentation efficace et agressive souvent en face d'un gouvernement qui ne comprend pas ou ne veut pas comprendre les problèmes de notre communauté ou de la communauté franco-ontarienne.

Je dois vous dire, Monsieur l'Orateur, que je suis extrêmement heureux de voir au sein de notre caucus, le caucus libéral, un nouveau député qui représente, lui aussi, un autre comté qui est 75 pour cent francophone, mon collègue M. Boudria du comté de Prescott-Russell. Je pense que mes collegues ici sont d'accord que c'était une élection qui vaut la peine d'être soulignée. Et c'est un collègue qui va m'épauler tout au long de notre lutte ici et qui va lutter pour l'épanouissement de la communauté franco-ontarienne.

Mr. Speaker, after having thanked the voters of Ottawa East and congratulated you, I suppose I should congratulate all my colleagues who managed to be re-elected and my colleagues in the NDP caucus.

Some of the people here had said at different times that I was sometimes more aggressive towards my colleagues to the left. I do not know if it was because it was more fun or because it was the member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy). Somehow he made it easy. In any event, I want to say to my colleagues in the NDP that somehow after this election I feel more affinity with them. I hope I will not reserve my best shots for my colleagues in the NDP. Do not think I am prepared to slip over to that side, God help me. I do not know if this affinity is in the face of defeat or in the face of the overwhelming odds on that side, but somehow there is more community of purpose after this election than there is at other times.

Mr.R. F. Johnston: Are you wrapping up?

Mr. Roy: No, I am not wrapping up at all.

I say to the NDP—and my colleague from Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) will understand this—we should have been discussing coalition at some time; maybe we should have. If we got sucked in on anything in this process, it was that those birds on that side on different occasions convinced us the best elbows were to our left and not across the way. There is a strange process here in Ontario. It is the fact that the people of Ontario, having seen minority

government work so well, rewarded those birds on that side with majority government. Isn't that a ridiculous process?

For the next while, in any event, I do not seem to have the enthusiasm to attack my colleagues on the left as vigorously and as cynically as I did in the past. I am not saying it may not come, given the proper stimulation. But I hope that if one can be aggressive, one can be more aggressive to those across the way.

What an impressive sight that was, the first day, to walk in here and see all these new faces across the way. I congratulate all the new members. I see that some of them, as I mentioned earlier, are already getting tired of the process. They should not despair. I keep getting these comments from the Minister of Industry and Tourism and it is so interesting. The minister is another example of one who was up and then came down, so there is hope for all of them. They should not despair. They should keep up their attendance. Let them listen to the whip and things will improve.

If some of them think they have more talent than others, they should be patient. Some of them come from different areas where they have a better chance than others. Geography is an important criterion.

Mr. Bradley: You have to laugh at the Premier's jokes. The member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) is good at that; he falls out of his chair when the Premier tells a joke.

Mr. Roy: That's right. When they get the signal from the opposition, they should all get up and applaud and not be seen to be too independent. They should be seen to be toeing the party line and, given all those circumstances, in a little while some of them will start coming down the row and become members of the glorious and industrious cabinet.

In my case, this was the fourth election. I have watched and seen the style change from one election to the next. I can recall the 1971 election. How many will remember that theme? That was a great selling job, there is just no doubt about that. People were saying the Premier had a tough time. The Premier had just won the leadership at that time. He was still wearing the flare pants, the baggy suits and the long hair. He had not yet started walking on the beach with the dog, and all that. They took him and they shaped him up. They shaped up the product and they sold him.

Actually, in some measure the 1971 selling job was a job that was sold with a certain amount of honour. There was, as my colleague from Cornwall has said, less cynicism. There were certain issues such as the Spadina Expressway and the separate school question.

Then there were the 1975 and 1977 elections which were the "bash Trudeau" episode. But this one was a masterful exercise in buying an election and using every means possible to win it. Once he has it won, he can sit there smugly and say to himself as he looks over the troops: "It was worth it all. I am the Premier. I have the majority. It was worth it all."

A lot of the things I am going to say have been said before and, in the scheme of things, a lot of it may well be irrelevant.

[Applause.]

Mr. Roy: They can applaud if they like. I do not kid myself about my role in life, or in history or whatever. I accept the decision of the electorate, but I do not have to stand here and applaud what those people pulled off on March 19. I do not have to do that. If nothing else, there will be this therapeutic exercise of saying, "These beggars have gone through this." I object to this type of approach.

I have here the article from our friend Fotheringham, who talked about King Billy and his Orangemen. It is the article he wrote just prior to or at the time of the election. If they think I am exaggerating, well, Fotheringham said it all when he talked about sleaziness.

The first thing I want to condemn is an approach taken by a government, a leader and a party in the most important province in this Confederation at a time when we are fighting for the very survival of the country. He has a pamphlet out called Building Canada. How cynical and how ironic that is. That pamphlet was used in the Carleton by-election and subsequently in a number of other ridings during the general election of March. It was used only in the English-speaking ridings though; it was not used where there were any francophones or other minorities.

The pamphlet talks about building Canada. There are pictures of the Premier here and there. The Ontario logo is all over it. It talks about some of the processes at the national level. It says: "Protecting the parents' right to decide: English-speaking Canadians moving to Quebec today do not have, as French-speaking Ontarians do, the right to send their children to schools in their own language for as long as they wish. That right, where numbers warrant, must be protected in the constitution."

9:20 p.m.

First of all, it is cynical and it is patently distorting the issue even to compare the protection the francophones get in the field of education with what the anglophones get in Quebec. I ask members over there, how many French-speaking universities are there in Ontario; how many French-speaking community colleges; how many separate schools; how many secondary schools? The numbers just do not compare.

The other cynical approach is avoiding another federal bilingual mistake. That is in the pamphlet called Building Canada. It says, "The Ontario Progressive Conservative government worked hard and negotiated hard to keep a revised section 133 that would make Ontario bilingual, what the federal and provincial Liberals and New Democrats want." That is an outright distortion. That was not our policy in the last election.

Then it goes on to say: "Out of the new constitution, the success in so doing is due largely to the perseverance and hard work of the Ontario Premier." He makes it sound as though section 133 was the plague; "We kept those frogs out of here." It is going to be a plague on all of us if we should accept this. It is one thing in principle to say we are against it, but then to take it a step further and try to make political mileage out of it is something else.

Those of my colleagues who sat on the constitutional committee with me saw the process happening. All summer long we were in a constitutional committee trying to arrive at a consensus to make a contribution at the national level from Ontario. Then all at once in the fall we saw polarization. We saw the Conservative members on the committee trying to make an issue of section 133.

Mr. Sweeney: The last days.

Mr. Roy: The last days of the committee, as my colleague says. The whole process was frustrated, and the work of the committee that could have been positive, that could have been effective and that would have kept the commitment to Quebec we had made in May 1980, was frustrated. The majority in Quebec saw that even in this province we could not reach an agreement.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The whip was cracked.

Mr. Roy: I hear the Minister of Industry and Tourism. He had the nerve to go around and tell the anglophones of this country or this province that the francophones have better treatment here than in Quebec. When he tries to tell us that, he has a nerve. He has the guts and the nerve to try to mislead even the francophones. He should know better than to try to take an approach like that.

This is going on in the English-speaking ridings. Meantime, in the French-speaking ridings—

Mr. Piché: Cochrane North.

Mr. Roy: Yes, my colleague from Cochrane North is right. They spent a quarter of a million dollars trying to tell the francophones how easy it is to get French-speaking services. This was government-paid advertising going on during the election campaign. They were telling the people, "C'est facile"—it is easy. In other words, one pamphlet for the anglophones is telling them, "We are keeping this stuff out of Ontario," and for the francophones they were spending another quarter of a million dollars telling them how easy it is to get the services. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, is that sleaziness or is that not sleaziness? Is that distortion or is that cynicism?

I suppose each and every member here can talk about his own personal campaign and some of the things that were done in his riding as to what was happening, the types of distortions of issues, the type of campaign that was conducted. Even at the level of Ottawa East I can imagine, in a riding like mine where the chances of success are somewhat limited, the type of campaign they conducted.

First of all they get a candidate who had some credibility in a Franco-Ontarian community, Omer. There is the new boss right there. Even in my own riding they came along with Omer and everybody was wondering, "What is Omer doing here? What is he doing running in Ottawa East? If he really wants to do something for the Franco-Ontarians, there are other ridings." For instance, the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve) has wanted to retire for some time. I don't blame him. He has said so in the last two or three campaigns. Omer could have run there. In Cochrane North, the new member could have stayed up there. What was he before, mayor? Was Mr. Pich¢ mayor before? We could have sent Omer up there, he could have gone up there; but no.

So everybody is wondering, "What is Omer coming to do in the riding?" He tried to conduct this type of distortion as well. One of his better ads I thought was this one. It is in red—there is no blue on this and there is no "PC" at all on this. Somebody mentioned "the Davis candidate." In Ottawa East you don't mention a Davis candidate. You don't do that at all, and you don't mention "PC".

So you have an ad that is black and red. Can the members imagine that? That is the ad in red. It states here: "A minister in Queen's Park. Why not?" The people in the back rows over there have a lot of ambition but they don't match Omer; he was a minister even before the election. They just don't touch him. "A minister in Queen's Park," all in red. Nothing about "PC" here, nothing about "the Davis candidate" or anything of that nature.

Omer promises all sorts of things—a Franco-Ontarian village promised in my riding.

Mr. Boudria: And in mine.

Mr. Roy: It was promised in Prescott-Russell too. When we mentioned that to Omer, "Omer, why would you promise it in two places?" he said, "We are promising an urban and a rural village—Prescott-Russell the rural village and Ottawa East the urban village." And it goes on.

Omer had another letter to all the important people in the riding in Vanier saying, "If you vote for me, I'm going to get some money." He said, "Une important subventionne." That is an important grant. Une important subventionne, Omer said, to study Vanier. You see, Vanier is going to study what its destiny is, its future and whatever. Omer comes to the rescue. "If you vote for me there will be an important grant," and he sends personal letters to everybody. I could go on.

One of the funniest things in Omer's literature—and maybe I can find it here; yes, Omer had a pamphlet. He had lots of pamphlets. Even in an impossible riding such as Ottawa East, money is no problem. It would be very good for the local economy, trying to hire my workers at $5 an hour; good for the local economy.

9:30 p.m.

Part of the pamphlet has editorial on it, which is always important; it impresses people. It says, "Il nous faut Deslauriers[In other words, "We need Deslauriers." That's the editorial. Unfortunately, the editorial that he is talking about was an editorial in the riding of Prescott-Russell The people wanted him in Prescott-Russell, not in Ottawa East. What can one expect when his chief organizer was Fernand Grenier, a well-known Union Nationale organizer, member and so on?

Those are some of the things that were going on in the riding and yet people were asking, "Has Omer knocked on doors?" As I pointed out today, he diverged somewhat from the Premier's view towards Franco-Ontarians. One of the views was when he said to Hugh Winsor of the Globe and Mail: "The Indians have their rights. I don't see why Franco-Ontarians shouldn't have some too. After all, we have been here 200 years." That was pretty strong stuff. For a fellow who was going to be a cabinet minister going to Queen's Park, his views were somewhat divergent.

They were asking, "What is Omer going to get for this?" We are starting to see it now. He has got himself a job. He has got himself a job with the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr. Wells).

Mr. Ruston: He is going to Paris.

Mr. Roy: Yes, he is going to Paris later on. But for the time being it is a three-month or four-month contract, just to carry him over until Brussels and Paris shape up.

When he was interviewed by Le Devoir, they asked him, "Omer, don't you feel somewhat guilty about the job?" Omer said, "No, I don't. Roch LaSalle, the leader of the Union Nationale," who is a good friend of Omer's, "has got himself a job after the Quebec election." But Roch LaSalle's job is with private enterprise. It is much different. It is with Roderique Pageot. He is head of a PR firm and he gave Roch a job. Omer compares his situation.

He said to Le Devoir, "I have only got a contract for three or four months." The rumours that were flying around about his going to Brussels or Paris are still on. I am sure Omer is off to greater and better things. Part of the package was that Omer's wife has got a good job too with the government. It is called nepotism or the family compact.

When the Premier was telling Omer to run in Ottawa East, one could see the process. Omer is in his office and doesn't look forward to that process very much. He says, "Roy has a majority of 10,000 to 12,000, Mr. Premier, and they like him down there. Things do not look good for me. I have got a good job here."

The Premier says, "Omer, do you want a better job?" He says, "Omer, your wife Nora has got a job too in the government." So one could see part of the package. Those of us who were feeling sorry for Omer in the last 44 days realize that he could take this abuse for a period of time because Omer has got a good job and the potential for something much better, his wife has still got her job and the former secretary is in the ministry too. What the Conservatives are trying to do is make sure nobody is missed in the process and everybody has a job. It is like that game where nobody loses.

The part that is unfortunate about this is that their qualifications for the job are questionable. They are working in the French translation service, and it is important when you are translating laws, statutes and so on that you have competent people. I am suggesting that the former secretary who is running the office does not have the competency for that. I am saying that the wife who is revising translation and texts does not have the competency for that.

Translating our statutes is an important function that people have to perform; it is a challenge, and we should have competent people to do that. I am saying that unfortunately the appointments will undermine the effectiveness, the efficiency and the overall survival of that translation service.

I want to say in closing about this particular episode that when the Premier talks about keeping the promise, he certainly kept it with Omer. There is no doubt about that. Omer will have no trouble whistling that tune for the next while.

There are a number of other things, and I am afraid that I am running out of voice.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Good. You haven't said anything significant yet.

Mr. Roy: Oh, no? The minister does not consider that significant? He does not consider it significant, I suppose, to get an individual to swallow his principles.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It's a sore loser's speech, that's what it is.

Mr. Roy: A sore loser's speech? Well, I will tell the minister what the Tories found out. They may have been able to buy Omer, but they cannot buy the riding of Ottawa East. Just because the Tories say the feds do it. Let the Tories keep their promise to their candidates, and we will keep our promise to our electorate.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I didn't say that.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: You said that. We didn't say that.

Mr. Roy: I woke him up.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: Can I ask my friend a question? Did the candidate who ran against him work for the provincial government before?

Mr. Wildman: This isn't question period.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It is perfectly in order to ask a question if the member will receive a question. I asked him if the candidate who ran against him worked for the provincial government before he ran as a candidate.

Mr. Roy: He was working for the Council for Franco-Ontarian Affairs. He was the president of le Conseil des affaires franco-ontariennes.

Hon. Mr. Wells: He was paid by the provincial government.

Mr. Roy: Well, yes. How does that absolve the Tories?

Hon. Mr. Wells: He has his job back.

Mr. Roy: The minister has made my point.

Hon. Mr. Wells: He has his job back just like everybody else. David Warner has his job back; he has gone back to teaching.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Mr. Roy, will you continue with your speech, please? Just ignore the interjections, please.

Hon. Mr. Wells: The member would do well to learn a little about principles and loyalty.

Mr. Roy: The minister can go on dispensing his patronage but he is not going to get away with it.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Roy, will you please return to your speech?

Hon. Mr. Wells: You should learn a little about loyalty over there. You haven't got any.

Mr. Roy: Loyalty?

Mr. Riddell: But we have some principles, some honesty, some integrity. We have all kinds of stuff that you people don't have.

9:40 p.m.

Mr. Roy: I know we have hit a raw nerve when we wake up the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. I just want to tell him that when he goes around the province as he did again last week and tries to tell the people the Franco-Ontarians are better treated by his government than the anglophones in Quebec by that government, that does not square with Omer. That does not square with his adviser.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It squares with me because it is true.

Mr. Roy: I challenge the minister. How many French-speaking universities are there in Ontario? How many community colleges?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: You outspeech your own caucus.

Mr. Roy: Keep looking over your shoulder. You have got a potential leadership candidate—that small fellow right there.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: There are none over there, Albert.

Mr. Roy: No. We don't have to worry about you.

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjections. Just address your remarks to the chair.

Mr. Roy: I could talk about the sleaziness of the government's advertising campaign, the $4.7 billion they spent on that energy ad, "Preserve it, conserve it." That is an abuse of the process. In fact, they carried on the ad right through the election campaign. They did not even respect the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission rules.

There is the question of buying the electorate with promises, there is the question of their ads, and I want to talk about something that my colleague from Cornwall mentioned. I consider the government's gay-bashing experience, the raid in Toronto, part of that cynical process as well. I don't think they should be very proud of that experience at all. I hope the timing had nothing to do with the election, but after 10 years of watching those people I suspect that somehow it had a lot to do with the election, that it was part of a process of catering to the right wing. They bash the gays, they give more money to the police, they promise bulletproof vests to the police. It is all part of that process.

The government has managed to get its majority now, and it would appear that given this majority it is going to embark on another arrogant four years. Instead of using the majority—and I say this to the Premier— instead of using his majority to show some form of greatness—

Hon. Mr. Wells: You are the guys Ken Campbell supported, not us.

Mr. Roy: What is the minister talking about now?

I think this leader and this government would have an opportunity at this time with their majority to live up to their pamphlet which they call Building Canada. I think this would be an opportunity to try to give leadership in the field of energy to the other provinces. I have not heard a word. It would be an opportunity for them to show some measure of largess towards their minority, at least to have some credibility with the majority in the province of Quebec, to fulfil the commitment of May last year. But it is not forthcoming.

My friend from Renfrew North and I were talking the other day—was it Lloyd George who said this?—we do not see on the other side what is called the generosity of greatness. Their success at this time may be very flattering. They can look across the way and say, "We are over here, and you are over there, and we are calling the shots."

I think they are given an opportunity to do more than that at this difficult time in our history, but unfortunately they are not doing it. I say to the Premier, I think history will be harsh, and unless we see in the next four years a change from what we have seen in the past and during this election, those who now make up the government will be judged as a party and will be judged to have a leader who is narrow, who is parochial, instead of showing greatness at a time of need.

Interjections.

Mr. Roy: Smug, yes. I just listened to the new member for Brantford, and I listened to the new member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko), another one who has been chasing every Conservative vehicle at every level, whether it is provincial or federal. They can be smug and sit back there, but their greatness or the leadership they could have given is going to be wasted, because we see no evidence they are going to change.

Obviously those of us who are considered to by crying in the wind, or blowing in the wind, at least will have our chance to say what we think we don't have to accept, which is the type of campaign we saw on the last occasion. I can't go into detail but the fact remains that we do not have to accept it, and I think history will show that at a time of need, a time of leadership, it was not forthcoming from that leader and that party.

Mr. Laughren: I don't want any heckling tonight. For all members know, I might be a block parent, so let them leave me alone.

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to congratulate you on the elevation to your present position. I can only say that as long as you fill the role as well as your predecessor, there will be no complaints from either side of this Legislature. I have seldom seen someone who could call people to order so toughly and so persistently and maintain the respect of the very people he was calling to order as could our colleague the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes). I hope that four or five years from now, when one of our members is in that chair with a majority government, we will be saying the same thing about you, Mr. Speaker. Time will tell.

During this throne speech debate, I have noticed there is a very good turnout of the back-bench Conservatives—the back row in particular, all those new members. It was drawn to my attention that we should not be so impressed with that back row, that the government has only one more member on that back row than we have on our caucus. That is not such an impressive array.

I would say there are some ambitious people in that back row, and those of us in northern Ontario are doing a lot of speculating. A lot of the voters in northern Ontario are saying, "What is going to happen? Here we have in the cabinet, from northeastern Ontario alone, Mr. Ramsay from Sault Ste. Marie and Mr. Pope from Sault Ste. Marie"—

Interjections.

Mr. Laughren: I'm sorry, from Timmins; the minister without a food terminal.

They have elected this time some very ambitious new members: the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon), the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris), the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Pich¢)—all very ambitious young men. I am wondering what is going to happen to their ambitions over that four years. I suspect there is going to be some bitterness in the back rows of that Tory caucus before we head to the next election. It is going to be very interesting to see.

When the Tory members up north were running for election—I don't want to rehash the election, I don't intend to—the theme that was used by all the Conservative members, because the polls were obviously in their favour, was that you must elect a government member in order to get adequate service for your riding. That was the theme that ran throughout all of northern Ontario and I suspect other parts of Ontario as well. On top of that was the possibility that not only might you have a government member, you might have a cabinet minister.

9:50 p.m.

In the Sudbury basin people virtually drooled at the thought of having a federal cabinet minister—the mineless minister, as we call her, Judy Erola—and that they might have a cabinet minister from the Sudbury basin provincially too. It didn't matter, did it, that he was a Johnny-come-lately to the Conservative ranks. As a matter of fact he was a very recent—I should not say "reject" because I think he rejected the other opposition party and not it him; nevertheless he won the Conservative nomination in Sudbury, under a very low-lying cloud, I might add, according to the rules of that organization.

So there is going to be a lot of biting and scratching and agonizing in the back rows over there, but we will see what happens in the next four years.

I must say that part of my remarks tonight will deal with the policy in which the new member for Sudbury believes: namely what should we do with our resources and what should we do about our mining-machinery complex in the Sudbury basin? The minister shouldn't clap his hands; we are not talking about an advisory board, we are talking about a mining-machinery complex. A mining machinery advisory board is about as close to an industry that creates jobs as a menu is to a meal. That is about where the relationship ends. We will see, my friend.

Mr. Martel: Wait until you hear about Jim Gordon. He is the guy who would not run with a Tory logo.

Mr. Laughren: The people in Sudbury knew what Bud Germa stood for. They sure don't know what Jim Gordon stands for. They never have and they never will.

Interjections.

Mr. Laughren: I thought the speech by my colleague the member for CornwallMr. Samis) said virtually everything I would like to have said about the election campaign we have just been through, and I am not going to repeat any of it. I thought it was one of the best throne speech debate speeches I have heard in this chamber, and I commend him for that.

Let us not kid ourselves in this chamber. Maybe the jingles and so forth can kid people, but let us not kid ourselves as to what the real issues in Ontario are. The real issues in Ontario are much bigger than where an industrial waste-disposal unit goes—the Cayuga site—much greater even than insecticide spraying or greater than the cost of housing in Ontario. The issues in Ontario are not unlike the issues south of the border and elsewhere in this country: the extent to which we are going to have public poverty in this province at the expense of private prosperity. That is really what it is coming down to.

We see it very clearly in the United States, and we are going to see it now, because, let's face it, it is not possible to maintain the status quo in a shrinking economy. We all accept that, I believe. The only thing is that the government disguises that message much more subtly than it does in the United States. In Ontario they give the impression we are not going to do anything, we are not going to cut back services, there is not going to be any reduction in any kind of services; instead we are going to give more to the private sector, we are going to raise Ontario health insurance plan premiums, we are going to do all these kinds of things that cost people more.

I can hardly wait for the budget on May 19. I know what is going to be in it. I can see the user

fees building up now. Whether it is a deterrent for medical care, whether it is a deductible for medical care or whether it is provincial park fees—you name it, it is going to be there, and it will all be disguised as being necessary for fiscal responsibility in Ontario. But we understand very clearly that when it comes to making those choices, this government is clearly on the side of cutting back those social services.

I know the rationale. The rationale, presumably, as it is in the United States, is that if only we could unfetter the private sector they would be more competitive, they would create more jobs; profits would be higher, yes, but those profits would be channelled into investments which would create new jobs, and everyone would be better off. If only we could free up the private sector—"free enterprise," as they say. That is the theory behind it. But the trouble is that in order to get there, there is a great deal of agony and a great deal of pain. I think the Conservatives on the other side have heard the expression about short-term pain for long-term gain, but that really is the theory behind it.

It is very strange that the radical party in Ontario now is the Conservatives. It is not the New Democrats. The New Democrats have said: "No, we are not going to buy that kind of radical approach to restructuring the economy. We refuse to do that. We refuse to tolerate the layoffs and the cutbacks in social, health and educational services." We say there is a more humane way, a more rational way. We start, surely, with a better economic structuring of Ontario. We have laid out our plans before the government. I am not going to repeat them here tonight, but certainly they involve the replacing of imports and less domination of the economy by outsiders. Only then are we going to be able to have any kind of control.

I have to laugh at all the thunder by the Ontario Liberals about interest rates and inflation. My goodness, it is the federal Liberals who have allowed our economy to get into the shape it is in. I am not so innocent that I think we live in isolation from other countries and that we can build up walls around our borders, but I would feel a lot better if we were trying to do something about inflation. I see us doing absolutely nothing about it.

We are going to be fighting very hard in this chamber over the next four years to make sure it is not the underprivileged who pay any more than they are paying now. It is time the "uptrodden" in this society paid their fair share. As well, it is time we shifted the balance of power to Canadian firms, to Canadian people, the people who make decisions that affect the rest of us in the province, and that is not what is happening now.

The New Democrats will still end up with a mixed economy, just as the government is going to end up with a mixed economy. It is talking increasingly about a different kind of mix out there in the economy. I happen to believe we would have a better mix, we would have a fairer mix. We would have more of our resources processed here, we would have fair taxation and we would make Ontario a more exciting and a better place to live for everyone.

The government's throne speech makes a mockery of planning in order to rebuild the economy. It is not a document of hope and it is not a document of action. It is a document that threatens to maintain the status quo or even worse. What nonsense in Ontario, with almost 300,000 people unemployed, to have the kind of imports we have, imports of goods that we could be producing here. How outrageous that we continue to export our resources elsewhere for refining.

We have the worst economic discrimination record against women in the western world. We have an incredible hotchpotch of income security and pension schemes that allows people to be degraded because they have no income protection or pensions except welfare to fall back on. We have a medicare scheme that is under siege by doctors opting out and by regressive premiums. We have, to this day, one-industry towns scattered all over northern Ontario and no government policy whatsoever to deal with those one-industry communities. There is not one single government policy that deals with one-industry communities all across northern Ontario. They have simply been abandoned to sink or swim.

This is not the kind of government that deserves the kind of support it got; nevertheless, it got it. We are going to use the next four years to be very constructive and lay out before the people of Ontario and members of the chamber what we think is a constructive course of action. That is our job. I believe that we have in our caucus 21 experienced members; no rookies at all. It is reminiscent of 1971-75. We had 21 members then too. Is there any doubt as to who was the unofficial opposition between 1971 and 1975? No doubt whatsoever it was the New Democrats and we will emerge in that role again in the next few years.

We have an advantage over our opponents

because we are not afraid of very fundamental structural changes in the Ontario economy. Our opponents do not have that advantage. Our opponents cannot call for the resources of this province to be brought into the public sector for further processing and to create new wealth. They cannot do that; their friends would not allow them to do it. Our opponents cannot advocate a decent public pension scheme in Ontario; their friends would not allow them to do that either. Our opponents cannot advocate a decent minimum wage for people in the province; their friends would not allow them to do it.

They can promise to create mining machinery, but they are not doing it. They are fudging it all. They are promising an advisory board and they will not do it. They cannot even advocate a fair taxation system in the province because their friends will not allow them to do that either.

10 p.m.

When I say New Democrats have an advantage in this chamber, I mean it very seriously. We are the party that can advocate fundamental and structural changes to the economy, social and economic changes in Ontario, and that is what we will be doing. They cannot do that. They can only tamper with the system. I consider that to be not a disadvantage, not a liability, but an opportunity.

Only New Democrats can lead the battle for a different kind of economy, one that is owned and operated by Canadians, one in which the surplus generated by people in the economy is used to provide the kind of social, health and educational services to which we think people have a right. We do not think that is a privilege.

One of the ways in which we would do it is on the whole question of resources. As New Democrats, we know we cannot provide a lot of the services we promise without the money to do so. We know that. In years gone by we have tended to concentrate a lot on the provision of services rather than on the creation of wealth and on how we would create the money to provide those services. There is an awareness among New Democrats that we have to broaden that debate. One way of doing that is to take a look at a part of the economy where we are not realizing our potential. There are several, but probably the number one area is the whole resources question.

I have a passion for resources. It is partly because of the community in which I live, but it is also because of the economic facts of what is happening to our resources in this province. I am glad the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Ramsay) is here this evening. We think we can get our economy back on track again. When I look at our nonrenewable resources, I do not understand how the government can allow them to stay in the private sector.

There is a number of reasons why I say that. It is not a simple knee-jerk ideological response on my part. Mr. Speaker, think about it: They are nonrenewable; they will never be there again. Think of the linkages we could establish between the resources and further processing, the forward linkages and then the backward linkages of the machinery we would build to extract and exploit those resources.

Think of the rate of return Saskatchewan gets on its resources compared to what Ontario gets. It is something like six times the rate of return. I am talking about mineral reserves, not oil and gas. Think about the potential for regional development if we owned our resources and did something sensible with them. There is enormous potential for regional development. We are not doing it. We are not using our resources in the north to create a more diversified economy.

I think of the whole question of processing. In Sudbury there are two big mining companies, Inco and Falconbridge. Falconbridge has been there almost 50 years. To this day, every pound of ore that is taken out of the ground by Falconbridge is shipped to Norway for refining. Do the members really think that is right? For almost 50 years; that is simply outrageous. This is not a struggling young enterprise. It is part of the huge Superior Oil empire. It is a huge corporation. But the members should hear what the government says when it talks about Falconbridge: It really believes it cannot do it itself.

There is a section 113 of the Mining Act that says they must process here, but the government gives exemptions. There are 23 exemptions under the act now which allow these companies to ship ores out for refining. This is the reason for the exemption in Falconbridge: "The capacity of existing refining facilities in Canada is inadequate to refine the applicant's nickel copper mat and the construction of a new facility by the applicant is presently economically unfeasible." Amen.

That is the reason this government gives for Falconbridge being allowed to ship its nickel to Norway. For 50 years they have not been required to build a refinery. Can the govern-

ment tell me how it justifies that? I would like to hear a Conservative member stand up and explain how he or she justifies shipping ore to Norway for refining.

It is because Falconbridge does not want build a refinery here. Is that not too bad? Those people get down on their knees and say, "Fine, we will do as you tell us." That is really where it begins and where it ends. Not only that, they can ship the ore to Norway and then—this is the insult added to the injury—they can write off their processing costs in Norway against their Ontario profits. How does the House like that? That is what is allowed in Ontario and they wonder why we say, "It is time to take the resources under public control, under public ownership." Of course it is time. Those are just some of the reasons we must do that.

I can remember, in Sault Ste. Marie, the member's ad campaign when he was first elected said New Democrats would bring resources into the public sector. He asked, "Do you want to face those bureaucrats in Toronto running our resources?" To which, of course, I would reply, "Would you rather have someone in Texas running them?" That is what is happening now—Superior Oil in Texas.

I would like to hear the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development tell me whether he is really happy with the Superior Oil people in Houston, Texas, making decisions on the refining of oil in Norway, or whether he would rather have somebody in Toronto, even better in Sudbury, making that decision. He need not bother replying. He made his point during his campaign and I hope he is happy. It is a bankrupt policy and he knows it. It is costing jobs in Ontario, and I hope he is satisfied with his incredibly bankrupt policy on resources. He has no policy on resources.

That is minerals. I look at forestry and it is just as bad. Does the government know what the state of a yield means? I do not think they even know what the word means. They are the only people I know who could turn a renewable resource into an unrenewable one. They would turn forestry into a mineral. That takes a lot of skill. I do not know how they did it but they have had lots of practice.

When I think of forestry, I think of reports. The number of reports that have been made on the forestry industry is absolutely incredible. Let me quote from the 1947 royal commission on forestry, Mr. Speaker. This is what was said 34 years ago: "If Ontario is to remain one of Canada's major timber-producing provinces this trend"—the trend being cutting more than they are reforesting—"must be checked and practices developed and enforced which would guarantee a future crop, preferably better than, but at least as good as, the one harvested."

That was in 1947. What is the government doing now? It is running around panic-stricken over what is happening to the reforestation program in Ontario, because it was too silly to follow the recommendations back 34 years ago, which happens to be not quite as long as the Conservatives have governed in Ontario. It really is remarkable. The former minister, the Honourable James Auld, admitted that still only about 70 per cent of it was getting the attention it deserved. It seems as though the Tory party just rolls on and some of the things it has done to our economy do not seem to matter.

When the forest industry gets in trouble because it has not been told how to manage the resource, what does the government do? It bails them out. Not only does it bail them out, it bails them out when it is not even necessary. Boy, they must be glad to see government people come in the door of the plant. They must say, "They are not here to inspect our pollution equipment; they are here to give us a grant."

I can hear it now. Despite the report that was made by the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment last year which said—listen to this, Mr. Speaker, this is a beautiful quote, and the government is still going to give them $20 million more: "The significant margin between operating costs and projected prices for newsprint, together with a favourable rate of return analysis and new capacity, strongly suggests that this sector is capable of undertaking modernization in northern Ontario on a profitable basis without the support of taxpayers, in the form of the recent modernization grants offered jointly by the provincial and federal governments."

There we go. There are the experts telling us that we should not do it, that they did not need it, and the government can hardly wait to give them more. Even more recent information says they should not get any more and the government is still rushing there to give them a further $20 million.

Mr. Martel: They shove the cheque in their pocket.

Mr. Laughren: As my friend said, we have run out of resources to give them, now we have to give them money to keep them happy. It is a very strange economic policy. We have given them $98-point-something million. That is what

the government has given the forestry industry. It is not as though they did not have profits. They have had profits over the years. The problem is they did not put them back into modernization and the government knows it. Instead of saying to them, "That is your problem," the government throws money at them to solve the problem. Why should they ever be responsible in their investment policies if they know the government is going to be there to bail them out?

The New Democrats have been saying for a long time that the harvest must be on a sustainable yield in the province. My colleague the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) introduced a private member's bill today that had that expression in it, that included that right in it. It should be the law of the province.

10:10 p.m.

Mr. Martel: The Premier (Mr. Davis) promised two trees for one.

Mr. Laughren: Yes, we are only asking for one tree for one; the Premier called for two. We think there should be an increased emphasis on professional foresters. In the rest of the world the average is one forester for every 30,000 acres of forest land. In the United States it is one forester for every 20,000 acres of forest land. In Ontario it is one forester for every 100,000 acres of forest land. Is it any wonder the government is not supervising the forest properly? That is why. They need to make a commitment to professional forestry.

We also need an immediate crash program of reforesting cut-over and burnt-out areas. Finally, we need to cut down on the waste that occurs when the trees are being cut. I get phone calls all the time from constituents who say, "Have you seen that area where So-and-so is cutting? The waste in there is unbelievable." There needs to be a tightening up on that. More professional foresters could be part of that supervision and it would be a very positive move.

Finally, we should be insisting that forestry machinery be made and purchased in this country, not just in Ontario. That is not being done at all. As a matter of fact, I guess we should not expect too much from the private sector in our forests. Maybe members know who Mr. Hearnden is. He is a professional forester and former dean of Lakehead School of Forestry. This is what he had to say:

"Any expectation that the forestry industry or its captains will be suddenly beneficially influenced by appeals for active participation in forest extension for the benefit of future generations is doomed at the outset under existing corporate structures."

How many messages does the government need? I have only included from 1947 up to 1981. I am sure I could go back further and I am sure I could project into the future and it still would not be getting the message because there is no evidence of it at all.

I wish I had more time this evening. There are a couple of issues I want to talk about. One is the whole question of compensation for people in the province who are either hurt or ill. I am talking about a sickness and accident scheme. The present system is really incredible. The members opposite may find it surprising how often the Workmen's Compensation Board is at issue in this chamber. I have only been here about 10 years but every year it is a major issue. We have had task forces, royal commissions, agonizing debates in here and nothing ever changes.

I should not say nothing ever changes; the chairman of it changes occasionally. That does not solve the problem. He is working with an impossible system. The government just switches Tories at the top and thinks something is going to change.

When one thinks about what it is we have for protection of people who get injured or who are sick in the province, it is an incredible hotchpotch of things. There is the compensation board; there is criminal injuries compensation; there are the Canada Pension Plan disability, unemployment insurance, the illness benefits, veterans' pensions and allowances, private automobile insurance, family benefits, private sick leave plans, disability pensions and private pension plans, private sickness and accident insurance—I could go on. It is a hotchpotch; there is no coherence, no focus to any of it.

New Democrats have been saying for some time now that what we need in the province is the New Zealand model in which people are compensated when they are hurt, regardless of where the accident occurs and irrespective of fault. The members should think about it for a moment. Does it make any sense at all to penalize people who are injured? People do not deliberately injure themselves. They get injured by happenstance. We have somehow established a system whereby if you get hurt at work you are covered; if you get hurt when you are not at work you are not covered. That is a very strange policy.

I don't know how you define accidents and

illness any more. I defy the members opposite to tell me when you get into the whole question of cancer where the cancer originated, what was the cause? They don't know; no one knows. Yet we make these incredibly arbitrary rules saying if you get ill or you are hurt on the job you are covered by compensation.

They had hearings in New Zealand on their plan. Before the group was a woman who had been quadriplegic since birth. This is what she said, and it really struck a responsive chord in me: "The government"—she is talking about the New Zealand government—"has got the priorities wrong by using loose and ambiguous language. Their perception of accident is a physical impact concept that ignores most victims of accidents in a moral sense of that word.

"If a drunken driver injures himself by hitting a telegraph pole, they call that an accident. I call it a self-inflicted injury. If a rugby player becomes a paraplegic from impact in the scrum, they call that an accident. I call it a planned risk. If a small child runs into the street because there is no fence to stop him and is hit by a car, they call it an accident. I call it a predictable consequence. If someone is crippled by multiple sclerosis, there is nothing he could possibly have done to prevent that. We don't know what causes it; so he could not possibly have avoided it. I call that a true accident, but they say he is not covered."

When one thinks about it, it makes a lot of sense. In Ontario we have all sorts of people who are falling between the stools when they get hurt or become ill.In a common sense of justice how does one justify that? Why do we have so much of a problem with the compensation board? If we brought in this system, we would still have an assessment against employers and still have people covered for injuries on the road, paid for out of a driver scheme, and we would have the missing part, people who suffer illness or accident at home or elsewhere—

Mr. McLean: That is what happened to the NDP.

Mr. Laughren: The member can say what he likes. That is not a very witty observation, but keep on making them. In Ontario it is time we took a look at a new scheme and stopped living with the problems of the compensation board. We don't have to live with all those problems. They cause the government a lot of problems too, and I think it is incumbent upon them to look at that program seriously. My suspicion is that Paul Weiler, who is looking at the whole question of compensation, is going to end up coming to that conclusion.

I sat on a select committee in the longest running crap game in the world called the select committee on company law. We have been looking at sickness and accident insurance. As the months go by and we hear all the conflicting evidence, it becomes almost inescapable that one will come to the conclusion that that is what we need in Ontario. That is the way they are moving in Saskatchewan and that is the way they are going to move in Manitoba too. It is when one doesn't know all the ramifications that one sticks with the status quo. I ask members to think about it and to look into it, and they will find too that it makes a great deal of sense.

I couldn't sit down without talking a little bit about northern Ontario. They are flirting with separation, despite the results of the last election. I have mentioned resources briefly, but resources aren't just a northern Ontario problem. It is a province-wide problem. We have talked about a tomorrow fund which would use revenue from resources to diversify the small communities up north and to give us a different kind of future.

When I look at some of the problems in northern Ontario, I think to myself, is it as bad as New Democrats sometimes say or are we being too negative? We get the impression from the government that we are being negative when we talk about problems in northern Ontario. I don't know how else to bring the problems to their attention without mentioning them. I looked at some migration figures, people who leave northern Ontario. It seems to me that is not a bad way to judge whether or not people are happy with the community in which they live, namely, do they stay there or do they leave? In northern Ontario the migration figures are disturbing.

Between 1961 and 1976 in northeastern Ontario we had an outmigration of 70,000 people; in northwestern Ontario almost 25,000 people; and in all of northern Ontario more than 95,000 people, net, migrated. In Ontario during that time we had an increase, a plus migration, of 841,000. If things are as great in northern Ontario as the Tories would have us believe, why are people leaving?

10:20 p.m.

Let me give one reason why they are leaving. It is the participation rate of women in the work force up there. It is much less than it is in the rest of Ontario. We don't provide the opportunities for people in northern Ontario, so they have to leave. A lot of these are potentially the most

productive people—young people, for example, who graduate from high schools, colleges and universities and have to leave to get a job.

In northeastern Ontario the labour force participation rate for women is 39.3 per cent; in northwestern Ontario it is 43.3 per cent; and in all of northern Ontario it is 40.4 per cent. In the province it is 48 per cent. That is why we have the migration out of northern Ontario. We are not going to get people to stay there if we don't provide the employment opportunities for them.

Whenever I hear we are being negative, I ask: What about those people who spoke much more forcefully than I and much more meaningfully? They left; that is the greatest message we could get, it seems to me. I look at the number of doctors in northern Ontario. There is one specialist in Toronto for every 911 people. In northern Ontario it is one for every 2,611 people. That is the difference, a big difference. That is why we have to fly people down here to get medical services too.

I would like to take members very briefly to a community that is in my riding. It is a little community called Sultan, about 40 miles south of Chapleau. That community has been on a yo-yo because of this government for the last 10 years. I know some would like to say it is because of the representation there in the last 10 years, but I would like to say it is because of the policies of this government.

It is a little town of about 500 people. I was complaining because there was no public housing in there. So what does the government do? It goes in and builds 10 public housing units. The people say, "Good heavens, we are going to survive. We have public housing here. It is an act of faith in the community." The next thing the government does is come in and say, "We are not going to provide you with any more road maintenance. You have to provide your own road maintenance." They said, "Oh, that's not very fair."

They had a Ministry of Natural Resources office there, a headquarters. They closed the whole thing down completely and moved to Chapleau. They bulldozed the empty Natural Resources headquarters. I think they set fire to it, as a matter of fact, and destroyed it. They also have a small school there, about a five-room schoolhouse. This year the Ontario government, through the Ministry of Education, said to the chairman of the school board, "If you will close that school down, we will provide a Greyhound bus to transport your children the 40 miles to Chapleau." A real act of faith in that community, isn't it? Put your kids on a bus for at least an hour in the morning and at least an hour at night and ship them out of your community.

Then Ontario Hydro comes in and says: "Oh, we think this would be a good community for a pilot project. You have been getting your power from a Delco diesel unit for too long." They build a beautiful pilot project of a hydraulic dam. They dammed up a little creek there and they are going to have electric power. A beautiful alternative energy source, it beats nuclear. The people said, "Aha, an act of faith." So it is up and down. One minute it is an act of faith in the community and the next minute they are taking something away from them.

Then they let the neighbouring community of Kormak be shut down by the private sector which just walked away from it. A lot of the people who live in Sultan work in Kormak. Then what do they do? Another ministry of the government offers them a fire truck and says, "Here is a fire truck to put out fires." But the fellow from the volunteer fire organization says, "We are a mile from water." "That doesn't matter. Take the water pack." He takes the water pack, and I won't tell members the way in which he described the force coming out of the hose. When he put it into the water and ran the 900-foot hose out, he said he had seen more pressure coming out of a hose in small rooms. He wouldn't be more explicit than that.

The point is that there is no commitment to the small communities in northern Ontario at all, no commitment to provide them with a minimum level of health care, a minimum level of fire protection or a guarantee of good, clean drinking water. There has never been a commitment from this government on those three basic essentials for people living in small communities in northern Ontario. We have a Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) who doesn't know how to do anything but hand out grants, and he does not even do that very subtly.

We are going to see what happens in the Sudbury basin by having a government member in the community and to what extent the community benefits from that. We are waiting with bated breath. We want to work with the local member. We want to encourage him to get as much economic development as possible. I only say to him to make sure that what comes to Sudbury is true economic development and not just grants because any community will take the grants it can get. We are talking about real economic development in the form of some

diversified industry in the Sudbury basin and not simply about handouts from the provincial government.

Finally, I am very serious about the NDP being an effective voice in Ontario politics over the next four years and beyond.

Interjections.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, Perhaps I might be allowed to finish. While our numbers have been reduced, and it is a very unpleasant experience to lose as many friends as we have, we can be here only as a credible alternative, to offer what we think are alternatives to the smash-and-grab politics of the Davis government. That is all we can be here as, an alternative, and we hope we can be a credible one.

I want to be able to say years from now, whether it is 10, 20 or 30 years, that at least I fought for a different kind of tax system; that I stood up for the civil liberties of minority groups, gays being just one of them; that I fought for equality of women in the work place and elsewhere; that I fought for some resource development and a better return to our people from our nonrenewable resources; and that I fought for an energy policy that gave people an alternative to the madness of nuclear.

I also want to be able to say that I fought for the kind of regional development that encouraged growth in the north and in the eastern part of Ontario in particular and put limits on the congestion of southern Ontario; that I fought for an economy that was controlled by and for Canadians; that I fought for labour and health and safety legislation that was civilized and increasingly recognized working people as the true source of our wealth; and that I fought for a society that cared for and looked after handicapped people and the elderly in a dignified way.

Whether we have 21, one or 101 members, I hope we will always be that alternative in Ontario and that we will not allow the development of a society that is for the young and the swift, whether we are talking physically or mentally. That is the direction in which I fear this government is taking us. The young and the swift, mentally and physically, will cope extremely well in the kind of society they are building, but the ones who are not so young and not so swift increasingly will have difficulty in Ontario. That worries us a great deal.

On motion by Mr. Andrewes, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

CONTENTS

Tuesday May 5, 1981

Throne speech debate

Mr. Samis. 397
Mr. Dean. 402
Mr. Roy. 408
Mr. Laughren. 414
Adjournment. 422

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Boudria, D. (Prescott-Russell L)
Bradley, J. J. (St. Catharines L)
Cousens, D.; Acting Speaker (York Centre PC)
Cureatz, S. L. (Durham East PC)
Dean, G. H. (Wentworth PC)
Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)
Grossman, Hon. L. S.; Minister of Industry and Tourism (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)
Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
McLean, A. K. (Simcoe East PC)
Piché, R. L. (Cochrane North PC)
Rotenberg, D. (Wilson Heights PC)
Roy, A. J. (Ottawa East L)
Ruston, R. F. (Essex North L)
Samis, G. R. (Cornwall NDP)
Sweeney, J. (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
Turner, Hon. J. M.; Speaker (Peterborough PC)
Wells, Hon. T. L.; Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Scarborough North PC)
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)

Ontario

No. 13

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



First Session, Thirty-Second Parliament
Thursday, May 7, 1981
Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

Hansard subscription price is $15.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Central Purchasing Service, Print Procurement Section, Ministry of Government Services, 8th Floor, Ferguson Block, Parliament Buildings, Toronto M7A 1N3. Phone (416) 965-2238.

Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Thursday, May 7, 1981

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, today I would like to table the road construction programs of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and the Ministry of Northern Affairs for the fiscal year 1981-82.

In all, an estimated $319.2 million will be spent for construction on the King's highway system in northern and southern Ontario, an increase of approximately $17.1 million over the 1980-81 year. In addition, we will be subsidizing municipal road construction for another $237 million, which will generate about $408 million in total expenditures when the municipalities' shares are included. In total, some $727.2 million will be spent on projects considered critical to preserve the present quality of the existing highway system, a system that ensures the efficient movement of goods and people in Ontario.

Briefly, we are proposing new work on a total of 741 kilometres of the provincial system in southern Ontario, primarily on two-lane highways, including the scheduled construction of 56 bridges and, as part of the government's proposed expansion program under the direction of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, BILD, an extra $25 million is included in the road construction program for work in the Golden Horseshoe.

In northern Ontario, my ministry will continue to carry out the planning, design and construction of some 609 kilometres of provincial highways, a system that I am sure all members know is also the responsibility of the Ministry of Northern Affairs, which allocates funds for capital road construction. Again, the majority of the work is on two-lane highways, although the construction of passing lanes and remote airports is also included in our program.

Details of all these projects and others are contained in the program I have tabled with the Clerk, copies of which will go to all members via the legislative post office. In addition, we are including copies of the ministry's long-range perspective for provincial roads, reflecting this government's viewpoint of Ontario's future highway system, a perspective which, of course, is subject to annual review.

FOREST FIRES

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, as the honourable members are aware from news reports—

Mr. Smith: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I realize the minister probably intended to send me a statement, but I have not received it as yet.

Mr. Speaker: Have the statements been distributed, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Pope: They are being handed out now. I apologize to the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Laughren: And to me too.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Yes, you too, Floyd.

As honourable members are aware from news reports in recent weeks, we are facing another potentially severe forest fire season in our province. Now that the first five weeks of the official fire season have passed, I want to bring the House up to date on the situation.

The forest fuel conditions remain extremely hazardous in many forest areas as a result of the dry winter weather with a low snowfall. In the potential fire areas, we have enjoyed favourable weather condtions during the latter part of April and early May, with cool temperatures and some precipitation.

As of yesterday's provincial report, fire occurrences across the province were normal for this time of year, and primarily were grass fires. The number of fires to date is 201 and total area burned is 1,424.45 acres. But the favourable conditions have only given us temporary breathing space. The long-range forecast is still for drier than usual weather for the remainder of this spring.

Currently, the serious potential burning conditions are centred particularly in the ministry's northwestern and north central regions; that is, the area west of Lake Nipigon. Accordingly, my ministry has taken many special steps this year to build up our capabilities for fire prevention as well as for early detection and prompt initial

attacks on fire outbreaks. The following is a list of steps already taken by my staff:

During the past two weeks, the urgency and importance of fire prevention has been publicized through appropriate news media. This campaign will continue, of course.

Staff in many northern districts has been assigned to the fire prevention program to facilitate contacts with woods, mining and railway operations and those involved with recreational and tourism activities.

The railway companies and the Canadian Transport Commission have been contacted to emphasize the critical need for sound fire prevention practices in their operations.

Major moves have been taken across the province to integrate woods workers into the fire management program this year. Ministry staff have met with woods industry senior and field staff to discuss initial attack strategies, and extensive instructor training sessions have been provided to enable companies to train their wood workers to handle initial attacks on fires occurring on their operations.

Our firefighting force has an additional 30 unit crews, making a total for this year of 175 crews. Each unit crew is composed of five members. Ninety-five of these crews are now on line, trained and ready for duty anywhere in the province. The remaining crews are undergoing training now and will be fully operational by May 15.

All nine Canso water bombers we have on contract have been in place since May 1. Aerial detection programs are fully operational in all regions. The lightning locator system is now operational in the northwestern region, where the incidence of lightning strikes is always extremely high. The system enhances our capability to immediately identify areas of lightning activity and put into gear the appropriate detection and initial attack operations.

Helitack systems have been partially in place since May 1, and all 17 helitack units contracted from the private sector will be in place by May 15.

2:10 p.m.

The ministry fleet of water bombers are all on line, including two of the three recently acquired Twin Otters. These aircraft are being deployed as lake ice conditions permit. The third Twin Otter is scheduled for operational status next month. All MNR pilots have completed their float operation training.

Fire equipment inventories have been bolstered in the northwestern and north-central regions. In addition, casual staff support has been added to enhance the capability to manage and recycle the equipment.

During this spring, meetings were held between the Ministry of Natural Resources fire management staff and their counterparts from Manitoba and Quebec and from the federal and state agencies in Minnesota. The meetings were held to review the agreements about operating procedures for forest fire suppression responsibilities along the respective adjoining border corridors.

Also, the co-operative arrangements with firefighting agencies of all other provinces, with the United States Forestry Service and with the Canadian Armed Forces are in effect.

That is the list to date. I have included some items that might be described as housekeeping, because in an immense forest firefighting undertaking those details are vitally important to success.

Many lessons were learned from last year's severe season, which the staff of my ministry handled so capably with the assistance of others from many agencies and ministries and other jurisdictions. Several reviews were made after the season of the 1981 performance, and the improved and expanded moves we are making are based on the useful recommendations in those reports.

If we experience a normal weather pattern for this time of year, that means there will be some showers every three or four days and therefore the fire hazard will become moderate. However, if we get a period without precipitation associated with warm temperatures, things could become serious. But, as can be seen from this status report, my ministry staff are prepared to cope with the type of forest fire activity that the less-welcome weather conditions could bring.

ORAL QUESTIONS

NURSING APPLICATIONS

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson), I want to direct a question to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development.

The Provincial Secretary for Social Development may remember an exchange between the former Minister of Education and myself on November 15, 1976, when we pointed out that they were accepting applicants at teachers' college on the basis of postmark rather than merit. The minister at the time assured me it would be changed and even went so far as to say,

"I suggest that my friend will probably fall out of his seat when he hears how we are going to handle the situation this year."

It took five years, but I did just about fall out of my seat at the way in which nursing students' applications are being sorted at St. Lawrence College in Kingston. I ask the provincial secretary to look into this. I refer particularly to the fact that admission there is not based on academic achievement, practical experience or a deep interest in nursing. Rather, it is based on a new method of gambling whereby applications are literally piled on the floor and a person comes and grabs handfuls and armfuls of these applications.

Mr. Havrot: Ah, come on!

Mr. Smith: Yes. I said the same thing: "Come on!" But it happens to be true.

Is the minister aware of this situation? Does she think this is the best method for choosing the future nurses of Ontario and, if not, what is she prepared to do to stop it?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of that method of selecting future nurses for Ontario. I certainly will have it looked into right away.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That is how they do it in psychiatry. In law they have a lottery system.

Mr. Smith: The Premier (Mr. Davis) seems to feel this is a reasonable system. He wonders if they use that in psychiatry.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I did not say that. I said it was the system they used for psychiatrists, not for nurses.

Mr. T. P. Reid: That's how he selected his cabinet.

Mr. Smith: If the member for Rainy River is correct, if the Premier formed his cabinet on that basis, I can understand his support for the method.

Hon. Mr. Davis: At least I was able to do it; you were not.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Smith, do you have a supplementary?

Mr. Smith: I do have a supplementary, but the Premier seems to feel the fact that he has more seats than we do—"Na, na, de, na, na"—is a good answer. He seems to feel that will suffice in a battle of wits for which he comes otherwise unarmed from time to time.

Does the provincial secretary not regard this as an inevitable outgrowth of the philosophy of this government, and one that was started by the Premier when he was the Minister of Education, by which standards, merit and standardized examinations in the school system have all been played down on the basis of some misguided egalitarianism, and is it not time we got back to common sense?

Mr. O'Neil: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: While the minister is checking into the particular case that our leader has mentioned, maybe she could also check into a situation at the community college in our area where, I am told, if the community college reaches over its quota, marks are not taken into consideration and the names are placed in a computer and picked at random.

May I quote from a letter that I received this week from one of the people who would have liked to have been accepted in that course? She states: "Our educational system should not be based on luck. A computer can pick out names, but a computer cannot pick out a good nurse."

Mr. Speaker: A new question, Mr. Smith?

Mr. Smith: I was quite bowled over by the extent of the answers, Mr. Speaker.

GRANTS TO PULP AND PAPER COMPANIES

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I will direct a question to the Minister of the Environment. Given the report concerning the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment and the fact that its steering committee apparently told certain independent economists that it would rather these economists be not quite so independent in the expression of their views, particularly when their views run counter to those of the large pulp and paper companies or to those of the government of the day in Ontario, will the minister not agree that the royal commission has now lost its credibility totally as an objective body, that it plainly is going to be an apologist for the pulp and paper grants that this government has been making, and that the royal commission should be disbanded forthwith at a considerable saving to the public of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member wants a full response to that question, it might be more appropriately referred to the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope).

Mr. Smith: I take it then that the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment does not fall under the Ministry of the Environment. I point out, Mr. Speaker, that it is in the telephone book under the Ministry of the Environment. But perhaps the northern environment is

a different part of the way the government operates. I will be happy to hear the answer from the Minister of Natural Resources.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment is not within my ministry but I am glad to try to help the honourable member. I assume—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister has an answer.

Hon. Mr. Pope: I assume the Leader of the Opposition noted with the same amount of interest the comments that are alleged to have been made by the chairman of the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment with respect to the substance matter of that particular report.

Suffice it to say that my understanding is that both a draft copy of the report and the report itself were published in an unaltered form, expressing the opinions of the two individuals concerned who made that report. Needless to say, their conclusions are not necessarily the conclusions that others would draw under the circumstances. I would grant them access to more facts.

I believe that the policies of this government with respect to the pulp and paper industry, which were an issue up to and during the events leading up to March 19, provided for some discussion of that issue in the context of those events, and the people of Ontario, particularly of northern Ontario, made their judgement on who was following the right course.

Mr. Smith: Will the minister not agree that the public of Ontario could very easily obtain the opinions of these economists without having to have a royal commission to sift through it, giving its own opinions about these opinions, and certainly without having to tell the economists to soft-pedal their opinions?

Does the minister not feel that the commission itself has lost all credibility with the people of Ontario and that its very considerable list of expenditures could well be done away with, to the benefit of the public, and that the commission itself should be disbanded forthwith?

2:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Pope: I do not believe the Leader of the Opposition's opinion on one specific incident makes the work of the commission unnecessary

Mr. Smith: Useless and biased.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Useless. I do not believe that a system of public discussion of policy papers put forward by the northern environment commission and the public participation system in which that commission has engaged over the past few years are things that can be lightly discarded. They mean a lot to certain interest groups in northern Ontario. It has been an important process that everybody in northern Ontario has wanted to become involved in.

For the Leader of the Opposition to say right now that he does not believe that kind of public participation and public discussion on fundamental issues in northern Ontario should take place is just reflective of his attitude towards northern Ontario.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Since it appears that, despite the efforts of the steering committee of the royal commission to muzzle the authors of that study, the authors have strengthened their conclusion and have come up with tougher conclusions about the industry's ability to pay its way and the fact that the industry did not need those grants from the employment development fund, will the Minister of Natural Resources undertake to ensure that the people of the province get back in stumpage fees what we are giving away needlessly to the companies in terms of employment development fund grants?

Hon. Mr. Pope: First of all, part of the comments with respect to the pulp and paper industry are based on Canada-wide statistics and, quite frankly, do not apply to the situation in Ontario, where our finished product production is much higher than that in the rest of Canada.

Mr. Foulds: You are wrong. They examined particular Ontario mills.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Pope: For instance, our pulp production goes to the following in Ontario: 32 per cent to newsprint, 18 per cent to paperboard, 11 per cent to fine papers and 30 per cent to market pulp. That is not the 86.7 per cent; it is 30 per cent in Ontario.

We can make improvements in terms of finished product; that is one of the aims of our grants to the pulp and paper companies. I believe this is a successful program and one that will continue to ensure for the pulp and paper industry of Ontario that we do have a high percentage of finished product being produced.

Mr. Speaker: A point of order, Mr. Smith?

Mr. Smith: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: On the last matter, I simply want to remind the Minister of the Environment that the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment was established under an order in council by the Ministry of the Environment.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I want to indicate to the honourable member that, if he thought I was denying what he said, I was not. I simply indicated that the specific question he was addressing would be better answered by the honourable minister to whom I referred it. I did not indicate it was not related to my ministry.

HOUSING

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I have a new question to the minister of higher- and higher-priced housing with respect to the minister's statement on Monday that something better than 400 units were available through the Ontario Mortgage Corporation in the Peel and Brampton areas priced at less than $30,000.

Since the minister has now stated in the press that he was wrong to make that claim in this Legislature on Monday, and since he said on television last night that one requires a $30,000 income to get a home even in the Peel or Mississauga areas, will the minister now tell the House where families who earn an average industrial wage of $18,000 a year should look to find housing to buy in Metropolitan Toronto or the surrounding regions? Is it not the case that this government's housing policies have totally failed average wage earners in Ontario, particularly in Metro?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, may I say that our policies have not failed the average income worker in this province.

I do stand to be corrected in the remarks I made in relation to the number of units that were available from the Ontario Mortgage Corporation at less than $30,000, and I will correct it today.

In the community of Mississauga, we have 70 units available in the range of $41,500 to $43,000—

Mr. Cassidy: How many?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: If the member wants to add them up, and I trust he will have the capability of doing it—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: The minister will ignore the interjections and answer the question, please.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Particularly those from the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson).

I said there are available, in Mississauga, 70 units at $41,000 to $43,000; in Bramalea, 180 units in the range of $33,000 to $45,500, of which 150 are less than $40,000; in Ajax, 180 units in the range of $39,900 to $46,500; and in Oshawa, 337 units in the range of $36,500 to $55,000, with three units at the $59,900 level.

If members add those up, I think they will have something better than 700 units in a price range that I think is achievable for most in this province.

The member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) would like to correct me. I trust that I may be given the privilege of looking at his statement of Tuesday, wherein he quoted me as saying that "Perhaps suburban living will become a luxury that we can no longer afford."

If I may, I would like to read into the record exactly what I did say in the particular speech in which I accused the leader of the third party of being able to add or subtract to his liking. I trust he has the speech in front of him. I said:

"Perhaps suburban living and driving"—he left out the very key point—"to work in our private cars will become luxuries that we can no longer afford. Concentrating residential development and public transportation will become top priorities for urban municipalities of every size."

Mr. Cassidy: If I may, I want to come back to the houses that the minister said are available from the Ontario Mortgage Corporation for less than $30,000.

Is it not the case—certainly our research at the OMC indicated that the three-bedroom homes in Bramalea are available for $45,500 or more; that those in Mississauga, with three bedrooms, for which there is now a waiting list, are available for $42,900; that in McLaughlin Square in Oshawa, the two-bedroom units cost $69,000, according to the information we were given when we checked; and that in the rest of Oshawa the three-bedroom homes were $45,000?

Is it not the case that, at the accepted rates of spending for housing, a $45,000 home is accessible only to a family earning $25,000 a year or more? Where does the minister propose that people with an income of less than $25,000, who have two or three children and need a family home, should buy a home in Metropolitan Toronto and region?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I am not sure where the leader of the third party got his facts and figures relating to the price of housing. I have read the figures into Hansard today and clearly indicated that, of the 180 units in Bramalea that are owned

at this moment by the Ontario Mortgage Corporation, 150 happen to be less than $40,000. I said there were 180 units available in Ajax in the range between $39,900 and $46,500, and I said in Oshawa—

Mr. Cassidy: How many bedrooms?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I will be delighted to get the complete breakdown on the units. I can tell the leader of the third party that they are either two-bedroom units or larger. Basically, we have been looking into two-bedroom units in the condominium operations in this province. Three hundred and thirty-seven units in Oshawa are in the range of $36,500 to $55,000. I understand that these figures are from the Ontario Mortgage Corporation.

As regards the average income earner getting into a $45,000 unit, the leader assumes that individual will move in with a very small or minimum down payment. But we are finding that the experience in the real estate industry today is that there are more substantial down payments being made in real estate purchases now than there were in the past, and that will afford the opportunity for average income earners to move into a higher-class type of unit.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Ruprecht: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: I have heard it rumoured that the Minister of Housing is finally ready, willing and able to provide help for people whose mortgages are coming up for review and who are not in a position to pay 18 per cent for mortgages.

I would like to know two things: first, what he intends to do and, second, whether the rumours are true that he is planning special policies to help people who are not able to pay that kind of interest rate.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, it sounds like the member for Parkdale might be trying to design policies to serve only his own ends or, as the Premier said—and I concur with the Premier's remarks—he must have been talking to the federal Minister of Public Works, Mr. Cosgrove, who is letting out some secrets that he might do something at the federal level.

I maintain that is exactly the place that is responsible for our interest rates. It goes right back to the federal government and not to the provincial government. If some type of interest subsidy is to be put in place for those who currently own and for those who wish to buy accommodation in Canada, it will be by a federal move and not by this provincial government.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: The Minister of Housing has stated that the full responsibility for assisting home owners who cannot afford to renew their mortgages at high interest rates lies with the federal government. Was not the present Minister of Housing in the Ontario Conservative cabinet in 1975 when the Premier made a speech and said that, if mortgage rates went over 12 per cent, he would help Ontario citizens by subsidizing those mortgage rates? Did the Premier not make a speech and say exactly that?

Mr. Speaker: That is not a point of privilege.

INTEREST RATES

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier.

At today's auction of Treasury bills, the bank rate went up from 17.6 per cent last week to 18.71 per cent this week, an increase that is one of the largest at any time in our country, an increase that raises the bank rate to the highest level ever in our country and an increase that is going to bring mortgages past the 18 per cent rate, bank loans past the 20 per cent rate and consumer loans to 25 per cent or more.

In view of that, is it not time for the Premier to call in his chips with the federal government and insist that government turn around the disastrous monetary policy that is going to bring agriculture to a halt, that is going to affect hundreds of thousands of home owners in our province and that will have a devastating affect on the economy and the people in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I want to make it abundantly clear that I do not have any chips. Chips to me connote gambles, and I do not gamble with the political problems of this province. The leader of the third party may, but I do not.

Mr. Foulds: You invest. You just sell out.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The honourable member is interrupting again. His leader touched him on the shoulder. Is that a benediction or an encouragement?

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) says it is a benediction. It is quite obvious who at the moment is temporarily ahead in the sweepstakes over there.

I say to the leader of the New Democratic Party that the issue he raises, which I really had anticipated would be the first question asked by

the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Smith) but was not, certainly is of concern to every member of the House.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I say to the Leader of the Opposition that I am not one to judge what he is going to ask.

An hon. member: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I do not know who the honourable member is suggesting should come to order. If it is me—oh, it is the Leader of the Opposition he is suggesting should come to order.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am being interrupted again by the member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt).

No one in this government is going to defend the fiscal or monetary policy of the government in Ottawa. While we were undergoing that activity for some 44 days, some of the things the Premier and leader of a certain political party were saying were not particularly noticed by the media, one of the points I made during the entire course of that campaign was about this government's concern with respect to the monetary and fiscal policy of the government of Canada. I telexed the Prime Minister during the course of that campaign. I have communicated with him since then, stating that in my view there should be a meeting of first ministers to deal with the economic issues.

I am not minimizing some of the other important concerns; but, to me, the question of inflation, which is very directly related to the question of interest rates, was, in the minds of a lot of Canadians, their single largest concern. I think it is fair to state, as the Minister of Housing (Mr. Bennett) has said and as the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) has said on many occasions, this government is in no way involved in the setting of interest rates. We have no control and we have no say in what is done by the Bank of Canada. We have argued on a number of occasions the possibility of divorcing this country from the interest rate policies of the United States. I do not minimize the complexity. One doesn't have to tell me that when interest rates escalate in the United States the potential of the dollar flow to go south of the line is there. We know that.

At the same time, I have to say to the leader of the New Democratic Party I have communicated with the first minister of this country. I will continue to be urging a meeting of first ministers related to economic issues, including interest rates. But if he thinks there are some chips out there that one might call down, I guess, to use his terminology—and perhaps his experience, which I do not have—I can only tell him this issue goes well beyond that sort of situation and that I do not have any chips outstanding.

While I am on my feet, I want on this occasion to say to the Leader of the Opposition—and I do not say this facetiously—I know he is enjoying the many happy returns of today more than he did on March 19. I wish him a happy birthday.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, would the Premier say what the recommendations are that the government will take to that meeting which will make the decisive break with the present anti-inflation policy of the federal government, which has been to actively encourage the Bank of Canada's monetarist policy of driving the interest rates up week after week after week? Does the government of this province have an alternative to propose which will break the spiral of interest rates and provide protection for home owners who are having to renegotiate their mortgages and for all the other people who are being hit by the disastrous upward spiral of interest rates?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think it is fair to state that this government has the same concern with respect to interest rates since they affect just about everybody, as has the leader of the New Democratic Party and perhaps even more so, I would say that if there is a first ministers' meeting this province will make whatever suggestions and engage in any sort of discussion that will be constructive. I do not pretend—

Mr. Renwick: What are your specific recommendations?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I will tell the member for Riverdale that one solution for this government or the government of Canada is not to go the route of the Socialists in this country of recommending increased expenditure programs. That is one reason this country is in difficulty right now. If we had ever adopted the member's philosophy, interests rates would be at 30 per cent.

Mr. Sargent: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Why does the Premier not acknowledge the fact that every time he talks about going to the feds it is a cop-out? That is all he is doing. In every area in the United States there are fine programs. The most recent one there is a program giving loans at six per cent to low income people, nine per cent to veterans and 10 per cent to all others.

A great boom in housing is coming about through that program. They are state assisted mortgages—it is called SAM. We could call ours provincial assisted mortgages, PAM. Why doesn't the Premier get off his butt and do something, instead of talking about going to the feds? The government can give a $339-million interest-free loan to Denison Mines. Now they have bought a mine down in Mexico with our money, given to them interest-free. If the government can do things like that, why in the hell can it not do something important for our people here in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am perhaps less reluctant to get off my posterior than the honourable member who asked the question, although I do notice he gets up with great regularity, sometimes with relevance and sometimes without.

Mr. Sargent: Why doesn't the Premier answer the question?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I did not interrupt the member when he was so gracious in the way he asked the question. I will give him an interest-free loan to buy a tie if he wants. In fact, I will even go so far as to grant him one.

This government is not passing the buck; it does not pass the buck. The question of interest rate policy is a matter for the government of Canada. The honourable member knows it. He knows some of the complications. I am not going to defend the government of Canada, but one cannot isolate what is happening in this country either, in fairness, from the interest rate policies in the United States. Do not come here and say we are passing the buck. We are not.

Mr. Peterson: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: A new question.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, there has been one supplementary from a non-leader. Surely that is not fair.

Mr. Speaker: There have been three supplementaries.

Mr. Peterson: The leader had one supplementary and we had one supplementary. Surely this question demands more supplementaries than that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: A new question, please.

2:40 p.m.

Mr. Cassidy: Perhaps I could simply join, Mr. Speaker, in wishing the compliments of his birthday to the leader of the official opposition. I wish him many more happy returns, personally, I hope he enjoys this one and I wish him well.

Mr. Smith: I think the record should show, Mr. Speaker, that the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) also has a birthday today. We share something, apparently, if not a political stripe. I want to thank the Premier and the leader of the New Democratic Party for their kind wishes. I assure them both that this is one year in which I have aged a lot more than one year for reasons which will go unmentioned, but are well understood. I trust that further birthdays will be spent following more pleasant events than the one which this one was preceded by. I do thank them and all members of the House for their good wishes.

HOTEL INSPECTION

Mr. Elston: I have a question for the Solicitor General, Mr. Speaker. As he no doubt knows, the coroner's report from the Inn on the Park fire was released today. Since the report contains recommendations which are almost identical to those which were made in the coroners' reports concerning the Wentworth Arms fire in 1976 and the New Royal Hotel fire in Paris in 1974, does the minister not feel uncomfortable because of his ministry's delay in acting upon the earlier recommendations, a delay that possibly contributed to six more tragic fatalities?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I have not read the recommendations, Mr. Speaker. I have the report. As a matter of fact, I started to read them. I understand from my brief staff report that the recommendations are regarded as very comprehensive and excellent recommendations which obviously deserve a great deal of consideration. They will be given that consideration.

Mr. Elston: By way of supplementary, Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Solicitor General has been concerned about the split jurisdiction concerning hotel inspections for some time, will the minister make a commitment today thathe will move immediately to eliminate the confusion that has been fostered by the split in jurisdiction between the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario and the office of the fire marshal, and will he make a commitment to implement immediately the provisions of the new Ontario fire code?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, the matter is a complex issue. I do not think it can be dealt with simply on the basis of yes or no, we are going to make this commitment or that commitment. It may be of interest to the member who asked the question and to other members that I am advised by my House leader that the

Solicitor General's estimates are to start in about 10 days. I think we will have a good opportunity to discuss all the important aspects related to these recommendations and what might or might not be done. The member might be interested in participating in what I am sure will be some very useful discussions.

Ms. Copps: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Has the minister been so concerned with discussions on this subject he has been unable to call about or inquire as to why a fire marshal's report has not yet been submitted on the evacuation and near disaster of St. Joseph's Hospital of more than a year ago?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure of the issue the member is referring to.

AID TO PENSIONERS

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Revenue. Does the minister stick by his response during question period of April 24 that senior citizens are "not being badgered in any way," and that his officials are being as charitable as possible when overpayments are being made on property tax grants because of his ministry's mistake?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Does the minister not think it is undue harassment when Ministry of Revenue auditors are making unannounced visits to elderly people in their homes with no advance letter or no advance telephone call, just a knock at the door and the presentation of an identification card? Is that not unnecessarily unsettling? Will the minister state unequivocally to this House that he will end this insensitive practice by his auditors who tell me they intend to continue making surprise visits?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: There is no doubt I have had a couple of similar items brought to my attention recently. There have been a couple of occasions when auditors conducting their auditing functions have called at doors unannounced. In the case of a few seniors, I guess it has disturbed them.

We are looking into that policy, keeping in mind the auditors do have a function to perform. They are doing it, I think, in a fair, reasonable and rational way. If there is any way we can overcome this kind of issue that disturbs seniors, we will. I cannot make a particular commitment to the member at this time.

Mr. Breithaupt: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: I have asked the minister about the repayment practice which was going to be followed by his ministry. Can the minister now advise as to what terms of repayment are going to be available, rather than these unfortunate demands which will upset senior citizens? Can he not come out with a statement that would give a $5 or $10 a month repayment opportunity, something by which they can more easily work out this obligation which the ministry's errors have caused?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: No, Mr. Speaker. In most instances with which I have been involved, I do not think this kind of set policy has been called for or is needed. In approaching these people who have received a grant in error, we are finding that in many instances they have strictly put it into their accounts. In some cases, they have not even cashed the cheques and are fully capable of repaying it financially in one payment.

In those situations where they have spent the money and where it would cause grief to them, we are working out financial repayments that will suit their particular situations. There is no need, in my view, to have a set policy that it would be X number of dollars a week or X number of dollars a month. Each case is looked at on its own merits in terms of the needs of the individuals involved.

TRAIN DERAILMENT

Mr. Gillies: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment concerning the train derailment near Paris. At 9.20 a.m. yesterday, 31 cars of an 82-car train on the main Canadian National line were derailed just outside of Paris. Nine of them were tanker cars, eight were loaded with ammonia and one with ethylene glycol. I observed when I toured the site yesterday that a small amount of the glycol appeared to have drained into a stream which in turn drains into the Grand River system.

I wonder if the minister could tell me what steps are being taken to ensure that Brantford and other communities on the Grand River which draw their water from that river have safe drinking water available to them.

2:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, the information the honourable member has is essentially correct. To the best of my knowledge from the preliminary reports at least, the only leakage that occurred was of glycol. Staff of the ministry was on the site shortly after the derailment occurred and throughout yesterday monitored the situation and took water samples from the

stream as soon as it was realized that a very minor leak had occurred. I am assured by staff on the site at the time, and still on the site, that no hazard exists with respect to the stream or water supply for Brantford. Further testing is going on today to further ensure that.

As soon as I have a final and complete report on the situation, I will be pleased to share it with the honourable members.

CHAMPLAIN SCHOOL

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. Now that the minister has decided to close down Champlain school in Alfred instead of relocating it, which is what I suggested, resulting in the loss of 70 full-time and 15 part-time or contract jobs, can the minister tell us what special efforts are being undertaken to ensure that employees will be relocated without loss of salary? Will the minister also undertake to give a special severance pay to the contract employees, some of whom have been there for many years?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I must admit relocating rather than closing is something new to me. The government will make every effort to find employment in the government service for those affected by this closure. If there are terminations because of lack of employment in the government service, those terminations will be handled under the normal government procedures.

When people rise in this House and draw to the minister's attention that he is supposed to move something out of an area, I would very sincerely suggest they consider the repercussions of such demands before making them.

Mr. Boudria: Is the minister telling us he is not aware of this document which I have in my hand, indicating three potential sites to relocate the Alfred training centre in the constituency—one in Clarence Creek, one in Casselman and one in Alfred—in three smaller, 6,000 square-foot homes. The schedule for completion of that is in my hands. Is the minister not aware this is going on?

Hon. Mr. Drea: There were plans looked at over a period of time about how best to provide service for the young offenders in the training school. But we should get some facts on the record for the sake of the taxpayers. There are 13 young offenders in the Alfred training school and more than 70 employees.

At the end of June this year, those 13 would be going back into the community, perhaps not all directly to their own homes, but into other staging areas. Why in the world would I, this ministry or the hard-pressed taxpayers of this province want that kept open when we have vacancies in other training schools?

Surely the member is not going to stand here and say, "There has been a deinstitutionalization program concerning young offenders in this province which has been mandated not by this party and not by this ministry, but with the full acceptance of this entire House. Now, Mr. Minister, go and build three mini-institutions even if you haven't got young offenders to put into them."

Surely, he is not suggesting that I start placing young offenders into mini-institutions just for the sake of having to build institutions.

Mr. Speaker: A new question, Mr. Charlton.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We did have a supplementary.

Mr. Roy: You did not. You just had one supplementary on this side and no further supplementaries.

[Later.]

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order pursuant to standing order 28(a), I request that the question I posed to the minister today be debated at adjournment tonight. I am forthwith submitting to you, as per the same standing order, a written request for same. I will file with the Clerk my reasons for doing so before eight o'clock tonight.

KEATING CHANNEL DREDGING

Mr. Charlton: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment regarding the Keating Channel.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Roy: We want an even hand in this place.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Mr. Charlton has the floor with a new question.

Mr. Eaton: The member for Ottawa East should stay around until tomorrow and ask the question then. It will be nice to see him on a Friday.

Mr. Charlton: The minister is no doubt aware that last fall, as a result of proposals for dredging in the Keating Channel, Dr. Chant wrote to the Premier (Mr. Davis) suggesting that a hearing of this specific issue should be held as soon as possible and before any irrevocable approvals are given to the request for exemptions under

the Environmental Assessment Act and Environmental Protection Act. The Premier responded at that time by saying: "I concur with Dr. Chant's recommendations and will be taking the necessary steps to initiate such an inquiry."

Is the minister aware that as a result of the decision to make that inquiry a private inquiry, an inquiry where the commissoner will discuss privately with the bodies concerned, the issues involved in dredging the Keating Channel but will not hold any public hearings, Dr. Chant has on May 4 written again to the Premier very clearly pointing out the difference between a hearing and a private inquiry?

Is the minister now prepared to change his mind and make the inquiry into a public hearing in which not only the public can be served with information but where the proponents of the dredging can be cross-examined and witnesses called so that the process is full?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I assume that the honourable member is aware of two stages in this process. There is a commitment that has not been backed away from with respect to a full environmental assessment hearing on the dredging of the channel. The purpose of the consultations going on under Dr. Lorant at the present time is a very highly technical matter to determine whether or not the degree of risk of flooding that some people have alleged to exist does exit and whether, in order to prevent perhaps a very serious accident in that area as a result of flooding, it will be necessary in the interim to do some dredging in order to minimize the impact of that.

I don't know that a commitment was ever made that the proceedings Dr. Lorant is conducting, to come to a technical determination of that question and to provide advice, was to be a public hearing.

Furthermore, the gentleman who is doing that work was selected primarily because of his expertise in that particular area. When one seeks that kind of advice from someone with that expertise, I don't think the quality of the advice is enhanced by virtue of cross-examination of witnesses before a public hearing. There will be a public hearing through the environmental assessment. In the interim, to determine the technical question with regard to the threat of flooding, Dr. Lorant is carrying that out. Anyone who has any submissions he would like to make to him or any advice he would like to give to him may do so, but it is not a process involving public hearings.

3 p.m.

Mr. Charlton: Mr. Speaker, I am well aware of the fact that the present process deals with exemptions to allow dredging while the environmental assessment is being done. The minister over there goes through the process with a great fanfare of applauding the experts his ministry appoints. Dr. Chant is also well aware of the process that is being conducted at this point. Is the minister prepared, on his recommendation, to see that the present inquiry in the present circumstance for exemptions is made public so that the process is open and full and so that all of the evidence is heard in relation to exemptions while the environmental assessment is going on?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I think the honourable member misunderstands the process again in terms of his talking about evidence and cross-examination and so on. The conclusions that Dr. Lorant comes to will be public information. There is no question about that.

If the member's question is: Am I prepared now to say there will be public hearings to determine whether or not there is risk of flooding? the answer to that question is no. I do have responsibility to make certain policy decisions on this side. I have made that decision—that decision, in fact, was made by my predecessor—and I will stand by that decision. No, I am not going to change the course of that exercise now.

MENTAL HEALTH PATIENTS

Mr. Ruprecht: Mr. Speaker, I have been trying for three days now to get the Minister of Health in his seat. Apparently, I cannot get him in his chair, so instead I will ask the honourable member here—

Mr. Smith: Here he comes.

Mr. Ruprecht: Oh, he is coming.

The Minister of Health has assured this House that all is well in the mental health field and not to worry; things are going to be improving a great deal. In spite of the fact that I have tried to get an answer from the administrator of the Queen Street Mental Health Centre, who tells us that no one on the inside of the centre is supposed to speak to anyone on the outside, everything is well and things are improving.

Mr. Speaker: A point of order, Mr. Timbrell.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I thought this was question period and not a time for

speeches, Secondly, what the honourable member is stating is quite incorrect. No one at Queen Street has ever made such a statement.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Ruprecht, would you ask your question please?

Mr. Ruprecht: Mr. Speaker, in doing a little research, one finds that over 10,000 hospital beds have been shut down in 10 years, over 500 people have died in our mental institutions and that the return rate of treatment has risen from 65 per cent to 70 per cent. I have a report here from the—

Mr. Speaker: Would you ask your question, Mr. Ruprecht, please?

Mr. Ruprecht: That is my question, Mr. Speaker. I have a report here from the Clarke Insitute of Psychiatry. That report indicates—that is the question—that 43 per cent of the patients need after care, but only 12 per cent are referred to community and health programs. I am asking the minister why that figure is permitted to stand.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, first of all this may be a long answer and you may want to add something to the question period. Every time I listen to that honourable member I cannot help but think of the age-old question, why it is there are more horses' asses in the world than there are horses' asses?

To proceed to the issue at hand, it is quite true throughout North America over the last two decades the incidence of institutionalization and the lengths of stay in psychiatric hospitals have gone down. There is no denying that. There is also no denying the reason for it: the improvements in treatment that exist, including the development and use of many more drugs to stabilize and control mental disabilities in the long term.

Our average length of stay in the psychiatric hospital system is approximately six weeks. I still take it from what the honourable member is stating, that it is his view that one should lock people away until it is possible to sign on the dotted line that absolutely 100 per cent they will never have another problem. That is just not possible. He is totally unrealistic in expecting such a thing.

In addition, the honourable member refers to the fact that a certain number of people have died over the years in the institution. The fact is, we do have a very high number of psychogeriatric cases—a growing number, in fact—and basically the 10 hospitals and more than 4,000 beds in the provincial psychiatric hospital system are tertiary care facilities. They are for the chronically mentally ill. We do end up with a lot of people who end their days there, unfortunately. They do not die necessarily by their own hand, which I think is what the member is trying to suggest; they simply end their days there.

The report to which the honourable member makes reference is a report that my ministry commissioned and funded. We have already acted upon the first and basic recommendation of it by funding the proposal from Community Resource Consultants for a program to better co-ordinate the staff at Queen Street with social service staff in the community in the best interests of the patients. The whole point of that report was to identify ways in which we could improve on discharge planning and on aftercare for patients.

I think the honourable member at least should give the ministry some credit for having commissioned the report and for having acted already on its first and major recommendation.

Mr. Ruprecht: I have a report here from the Metro Toronto social services and housing committee that indicates the same concerns I have raised in this House consistently, namely, the impact of people leaving psychiatric institutions on the community and the impact of no programs for aftercare.

Why will the minister have people pushed out of hospitals into our area? And when will he come up with a policy that will address itself to the question asked by the Metropolitan Toronto council of why people are being discharged when they should not be and why people have no aftercare programs when they should have?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: There is absolutely nothing on which the honourable member could base the allegations that people are being discharged when they should not be. He knows full well—I have told him this repeatedly, but apparently he will not accept it—that the question of admission and discharge is basically a medical decision using the best judgement that individual can apply at that point.

Second, the honourable member knows full well that over the last five years we have developed an extensive system of community mental health programs. In fact, in the last two years alone our spending on community mental health programs has doubled, and it will continue to expand in the future.

I am well aware of the concern of the people of Parkdale for their community. I think the very forthright action taken recently by my colleague the Minister of Housing in approving

and reapproving the amendment proposed by Metro council will go a long way towards alleviating those concerns.

That, combined with continued growth in community mental health programs and continued growth in utilization of community hospital psychiatric facilities, with Queen Street and hospitals like it serving as tertiary care facilities for the chronically mentally ill, will go a long way to address the concerns of the honourable member's constituents. With respect, though, I have yet to hear a single constructive suggestion from the member for Parkdale.

3:10 p.m.

UNIVERSITY ADMISSION

Mr. Grande: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Education and in the absence of the Premier, I will ask a question of the Provincial Secretary for Social Development.

Will the minister assure us it is public policy that the Ontario university system should be accessible to all people, including members of ethnic communities, by specifically dissociating herself and her government from the position stated by a member of the York University budget committee, who is reported in a memo by the dean of Atkinson College, Mr. Harry Crowe, to Ian Macdonald, to express support for cuts in the funding for Atkinson College, the university faculty for part-time students, by declaring "his unhappiness with Atkinson's successful outreach to Toronto ethnic communities."

Getting away from the argument about the autonomy of universities, will the government insist that our universities shall be as accessible to students from ethnic communities as they are to others?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the policy of this government is that every student has access to all our post-secondary institutions in Ontario. There is no doubt about it.

Mr. Grande: I am sorry to hear the minister say that in such a quiet voice. I would have expected a ringing declaration in this Legislature about the accessibility to students, no matter where they come from.

The minister has perhaps seen the ad in this morning's Globe and Mail, if she has had no other information through the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Miss Stephenson) about the cuts that are going to be made at Atkinson College this year.

Will the minister not accept the fact that the $340,000 cut in the Atkinson College budget from the 1980-81 level will seriously damage the post-secondary education available to working people, many of them from ethnic communities, by requiring that 75 to 80 courses be cut and that between 2,800 to 3,000 students not be admitted?

Is that what the minister means by ensuring accessibility? Does she support that kind of cut, which apparently was made by a cabal of deans and vice-presidents at a meeting at the Board of Trade Country Club?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: The honourable member's question is full of speculation. If he is trying to suggest that this indicates our policy does not make post-secondary education available to everyone regardless of ethnic background, then I resent it very much. I find his comments very offensive.

Mr. Speaker: The time for oral questions has expired.

PRESENTATION OF COOKBOOKS

Ms. Copps: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: In view of the recent admonition by a certain member of the government party to get back to the kitchen, I wish to advise that I did so yesterday and managed to unearth a couple of books. To the Minister of Housing (Mr. Bennett) and in absentia to the member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy), I am happy to present personally autographed copies of a cookbook entitled "Great Grits' Recipes."

I wish to point out to the honourable members that on this enlightened side of the House our members not only let women into the Legislature but also contribute in the kitchen; to wit, recipes by the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. Newman) and the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio), among others.

I am only sorry to report that there is no recipe for egg on the face. I invite the honourable members to add their own recipes to our Liberal compendium.

COMMENTS BY MINISTER

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the honourable member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht), I wonder if I could get your ruling on whether he is what the Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell) described him to be—that is, the rear part of the anatomy of a horse—whether that is parliamentary and whether the minister should withdraw that remark about the honourable member.

Mr. Speaker: I will take that under consideration. The minister is not here and, quite frankly, I did not catch that remark.

QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: As a member of this assembly, I can understand your various rulings to cut down the number of supplementaries and allow the greatest number of questions in this Legislature.

While I quite understand that, I want to bring to your attention that there are provisions in the standing orders, including standing order 27(a), which states clearly: "The minister may take an oral question as notice to be answered orally at a later sitting but where any reserved answer requires a lengthy statement, the statement shall be given under 'Statements by the Ministry.'

As was the case again in this question period, the Minister of Health stated, in fairness to him, that he had a lengthy answer. These answers can probably be given—

Interjection.

Mr. Roy: That's fine. Whether or not they are in response to a question, the standing orders are there.

Interjection.

Mr. Roy: What is that good-looking member for Ottawa South (Mr. Bennett) saying now?

Mr. Speaker, if you expect members on this side to abide by your rulings as to supplementaries and to have respect for the chair, I suggest it is important that the chair understand as well that when ministers get up and answer by making lengthy statements there are provisions under the standing orders to make these statements at other times.

A precedent was set in this House by your predecessor that, when statements take too long, either the minister is admonished to give his statement at a time when statements are open or additional time is added to the question period. I think it is only fair and even-handed that, if the members on this side co-operate to make the question period work, we should expect the same co-operation from ministers on the other side.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, my friend the member for Ottawa East says he understands your desire to include more members in the question period. I must say, I have had serious difficulty in the last two weeks understanding what your desires are in the chair.

It would be helpful for all members if you would declare what your intentions are as the presiding officer in this House. It is my judgement—and I say this respectfully, but there is no other forum in which I can say it to you—that there has been exercise of discretion which in my judgement has not been consistent or fair.

I wanted to say that so that in your considerations in presiding over this House, when it is so important to you to have the full support and co-operation of all members, you can perhaps declare what your policy is, what your view of presiding over this House is, so we can all abide by it and you will have universal support.

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, I have been in this place for 20 years now, and over the years I have had some trying times, but we are coming into the worst period in history in this province.

When matters of great magnitude are before the House, I do not think it becomes you to decide that there can only be one supplementary question. If the matter is important, we have had as many as four, five and six supplementaries allowed. There are matters very important to me and my riding on which I cannot get even one supplementary.

To be perfectly fair, matters of importance to the economy are important to you and to us. I know you are trying to be fair, but I wish you would bear that in mind.

Mr. Speaker: I am pleased that this particular matter has been raised, because I think it is important. You will notice that in the last few days I have been trimming the supplementaries, because they tend to be repetitious. Members from all sides tend to dwell on the same topic, on the same subject, and indeed ask similar questions.

Getting back to the original point of order raised by the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy), in actual fact you will have noticed if you were keeping time that I have been very lenient in extending the time for question period beyond that provided for in the standing orders. And I did so today. Maybe I should get up and announce that, but actually the question period has exceeded the allotted time every day since I have been in the chair.

3:20 p.m.

Having said that, I think the member for London Centre brings up a valid point and indeed many members have brought it to my attention and to the attention of this House through their speeches in the reply to the throne speech. I think the problem quite simply is that

when we get into a question that is of interest to many members, there tends to be a general desire for everyone to become involved.

What I would rather see, with respect to all members, would be to keep the supplementaries to a minimum, have a new question asked and give the back-benchers a chance to become involved as well.

Mr. Martel: But the length of the answer is important.

Mr. Speaker: The length of the answer is indeed important, but just as important, with all respect, is the length of the question itself.

I ask all members to bear in mind that the question period is for the benefit of all members, and not just for those who sit on the front benches on either side. I suggest that some consideration should be given by all parties to those people who sit in the last two rows.

HOUSING PRICES

Mr. Mancini: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: Earlier today, during question period, I rose on a point of privilege to point out to the Minister of Housing (Mr. Bennett) that some time ago it was the Conservative Party's policy to subsidize interest rates. I noticed that the Premier (Mr. Davis) was shaking his head, almost implying that I was not telling the truth—

Interjections.

Mr. Mancini: I would like to be able to finish my point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Mancini: I noticed that the Premier was shaking his head, implying that I was not telling the truth. I want to inform you, sir, and members of the House, and I want to remind members of the cabinet who were also members of the cabinet back on September 11, 1975, when the Premier delivered a speech entitled "A Clear Choice," that on page 11 of that speech the Premier stated: "If, however, the federal government fails to respond within 30 days, Ontario"—

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Are you in the leadership race too?

Interjections.

Mr. Mancini: I could finish quickly if I were not interrupted, sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Let Mr. Mancini finish.

Mr. Mancini: "If, however, the federal government fails to respond within 30 days, Ontario will have no option but to act once again in our own best interests. For rest assured that this government"—those Tories over there—"is not prepared to stand idly by to give up its housing objectives and to give up the jobs and the homes to a federal policy which gives in both to increased unemployment and inflation. What we would propose, if we are forced to act, is to extend tax relief to the present and prospective home owners through a new tax credit which would offset three quarters of the mortgage interest costs which are above 10.25 per cent."

Mr. Speaker: I would like to point out, with respect to the member who rose on that point of privilege, that when he rose originally he did not have a point of privilege. In fact, he raised a new question. Again, I find him out of order.

Mr. Mancini: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: Surely, when a cabinet minister implies in the House that the government has no responsibility in an area, when he implies that it has never undertaken to have such a responsibility, and when there is evidence—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the member please take his seat?

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

Mr. Speaker: I wish to inform all members that pursuant to standing order 28, Mr. Boudria, the member for Prescott-Russell, has given notice of his dissatisfaction with the answer to his question given by the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea) concerning the closing of a facility at Alfred, and this matter will be debated at 10:30 p.m. tonight.

MOTION

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE OMBUDSMAN

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that, notwithstanding the standing orders and practices of the House, the eighth report of the select committee on the Ombudsman of the thirty-first Parliament, dated December 1980, be placed on the order paper for adoption to be called for debate under standing order 30(c).

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Snow moved first reading of Bill 52, An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I have just introduced a bill entitled An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act. In addition to a number of housekeeping amendments, the bill contains provisions to rectify the situation caused by a recent decision of the Supreme Court of Canada overturning section 238(3) of the Criminal Code. This made it an offence for any person to drive a motor vehicle while his or her licence was suspended under any provincial statute or regulation. As a result, there are no longer any sanctions against motorists who drive while disqualified, except for those contained in section 30(b) of the Highway Traffic Act.

Section 30(b), however, does not provide adequate penalties to act as a deterrent; neither does it provide for the automatic six-month licence suspension that previously resulted from a conviction underthe Criminal Code. We intend, therefore, to amend section 30(b), making it an offence to drive while disqualified under any Ontario law and beefing up penalties as well.

Under the amendment, drivers convicted under this section will automatically lose their privilege to drive for six months and will be liable to fines ranging from $250 to $2,000 for a first offence and $500 to $2,000 for each subsequent offence within a five-year period. Motorists convicted of driving under suspension will also be liable to imprisonment for up to six months.

The bill also amends section 100 of the Highway Traffic Act, prohibiting any passing on the left shoulder of the highway. At the moment, police are almost powerless to stop motorists driving down the left shoulders of freeways to pass stopped traffic. There is, of course, an exception for some emergency vehicles.

In addition, a new section is being added to make it an offence to back up a motor vehicle while on a freeway with a speed limit in excess of 80 kilometres an hour, because police have reported numerous accidents as a result of this dangerous practice.

Finally, section 128 of the Highway Traffic Act is being amended to empower the police to escort pedestrians found on a controlled-access highway to the nearest intersecting highway where pedestrians are allowed.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Snow moved first reading of Bill 53, an Act to amend the Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act.

3:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I have just introduced an amendment to the Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act. Briefly, the bill is designed to reduce Ontario's dependence on petroleum by encouraging municipalities to use electrically powered vehicles for public transportation.

Under existing legislation, the Minister of Transportation and Communications is authorized to subsidize public transportation at the rate of 75 per cent for capital expenditures and 50 per cent for operating costs, regardless of the fuel source. The amendment will permit the minister to pay a subsidy of 90 per cent of the capital costs of electrically powered vehicles and associated equipment.

Mr. Sargent: You just got $300 million for that last year. You are doubling up there.

Hon. Mr. Snow: No change is proposed in the subsidies for operating costs or for the capital costs not associated with fuel conservation programs. Mr. Speaker, this does not apply to Grey-Bruce.

PUBLIC COMMERCIAL VEHICLES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Snow moved first reading of Bill 54, An Act to amend the Public Commercial Vehicles Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I will not discuss this bill in detail, but I wish to point out that we intend to amend section 3 of the act to empower the ministry to refer ambiguous or unclear operating licences to the Ontario Highway Transport Board for clarification. This amendment, which is designed to promote better understanding of the privileges contained in operating licences, will benefit shippers, carriers and the public while providing for equitable enforcement of the PCV Act.

I also wish to advise the House that we are adding a new section regarding the provision of documents. At the present time, enforcement officers have no recourse but to charge the driver of a vehicle with an offence of failing to produce documents, even though the holder of the operating licence has failed to provide the driver with them. This is clearly an inequitable situation. Therefore, this amendment provides that the holder of an operating licence may be charged with, and convicted of, any offence that his driver may be charged with under the act.

MOTORIZED SNOW VEHICLES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Snow moved first reading of Bill 55, An Act to amend the Motorized Snow Vehicles Act, 1974.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, a section has been added to this act to require all snowmobile operators to stop when approaching or overtaking a school bus that has stopped and whose red signal lights are flashing. This is similar to the requirements applicable to drivers of other motor vehicles with respect to school buses as set out in the Highway Traffic Act.

In addition, a section is being added to the act to require snowmobile drivers to stop when approached by a motorized snow vehicle with flashing red lights, operated by a police or conservation officer.

The bill also sets a new and more realistic limit for snowmobiles involved in reportable property damage accidents. Under existing legislation, a snowmobile operator is required to report a collision if more than $100 worth of damage occurs in the accident. This will be raised to $400.

Finally, the bill contains two amendments designed to bring our snowmobile legislation in line with the Occupiers' Liability Act and the Trespass to Property Act passed in this House last year.

GOOD SAMARITAN ACT

Mr. Haggerty moved first reading of Bill 56, An Act to relieve Persons from Liability in respect of Voluntary Emergency Medical and First Aid Services.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to relieve persons from liability in respect of voluntary emergency first aid assistance or medical service rendered at or near the scene of an accident or other sudden emergency.

NONUNIONIZED WORKERS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. Haggerty moved first reading of Bill 57, An Act respecting the Rights of Nonunionized Workers.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to provide a low-cost mechanism whereby nonunionized workers may obtain a review by the Ontario Labour Relations Board where the worker is discharged or otherwise disciplined for cause and the contract of employment is silent on matters of discipline.

At the present time, a nonunionized worker who is dismissed or otherwise disciplined for cause may have no right of action against his employer, notwithstanding the fact that, having regard to all circumstances, the discipline is unduly harsh.

The bill provides for a two-stage process reviewing complaints involving harsh discipline. Initially, a labour relations officer would be appointed to effect a settlement, which would be reduced to writing and which would have to be complied with according to its terms.

If no settlement is reached or if settlement is not likely, the Ontario Labour Relations Board would inquire into the matter. If the board is dissatisfied that the complaint is justified, it will have the power to make an order substituting such penalty as seems just and reasonable in the circumstances.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Haggerty moved first reading of Bill 58, an Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to provide a mechanism whereby the Lieutenant Governor in Council can order a 60-day suspension of any strike or lockout and order a return to work where the strike or lockout constitutes an immediate and serious danger to life, health or safety, or seriously disrupts the economy of the province or any area of the province.

The bill provides that the Minister of Labour must appoint a conciliation officer where an order suspending the strike or lockout has been made and may subsequently appoint a conciliation board where the efforts of the conciliation officer to effect a collective agreement are unsuccessful.

If conciliation efforts are unsuccessful, the strike or lockout may be resumed without a further strike vote. An order made under the bill would be enforceable as an order under the Supreme Court.

3:40 p.m.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE PAPER

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the answers to the following questions standing

on the Notice Paper: 1 to 3, 5, and the interim answer to questions 6 to 59. (See appendix, Friday, May 8, edition of Hansard.)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE
(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Andrewes: Thank you Mr. Speaker. As a junior member in terms of service in this House and to this caucus, I am indeed honoured to make comment in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of this session.

With all due respect to those members opposite who may think otherwise, it is with a degree of humility that I approach this opportunity as the member for the riding of Lincoln.

At the outset, Mr. Speaker, may I affirm the congratulatory remarks made by my colleagues in this assembly towards your appointment as Speaker and to wish you well in your role and offer my pledge to you that my conduct in this House will be in keeping with the high level of decorum you might anticipate from all members of this caucus.

I would be remiss if I failed to pay tribute to the former member for Lincoln, Ross Hall, who served this House, his caucus and the riding with honesty and dedication throughout his years as a member of this assembly. Indeed, the constituents of Lincoln riding have enjoyed a great tradition of dedication, having previously been represented by the Minister of Energy and Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch). It is in this tradition that I will continue to represent my riding.

For those whose travels throughout the heartland of this province have not brought them in close touch with the euphoria of Lincoln, let me briefly take this assembly on a tour of what many Ontarians might describe as a remnant of Adam's garden.

Stretching southward from the shores of Lake Ontario and rising through the heights of the Niagara Escarpment, the area is unique in its climatic and geographic character, thus lending itself to a broad range of agricultural endeavours. Below and immediately above the escarpment grow the famed tender fruit and grapes that give the area its notoriety.

Moving still further south from the escarpment face, the moderating effects of Lake Ontario are less prevalent and the agriculture scene shifts to one of cash crops and livestock.

Let us not neglect to mention that Lincoln is the home of some of the largest poultry operations in this province. For those members whose agricultural concerns are more intensive, the riding is proud of its many well organized and productive greenhouse operations.

Lest the honourable members get the impression that we in Lincoln are without cosmopolitan influences, let me add that the riding is proud of its four communities that can boast all of the benefits of urban life without the preponderance of problems of a metropolitan centre.

As a member of a family that has been farming in this province for several generations, I should like to make some comments on the farm community. I would like to set the stage for my remarks with some background information on Ontario's agriculture and food industry.

Most people think of Ontario as Canada's industrial heartland. I am not talking about people from other provinces; most Ontario citizens see their province that way. Too few of our citizens realize that their province is the nation's largest producer of agricultural products, that their farmers produce some 200 commodities. In 1980, the value of that production was in excess of $4 billion. It is estimated that for 1981 it will exceed $4.5 billion. To the rest of the country that represents 30 per cent of Canada's total output.

Ontario has a population of more than eight million people. Only a very few of us are farmers. A little more than 340,000 people live on farms in this province which represents just over four per cent of our population. When you think of the size of the output from Ontario farms in comparison to the number of farmers, you get some idea of just how productive this small group is. The agricultural industry of this province has the capacity to supply virtually all of the requirements of the people of Ontario in those commodities which are commercially produced here.

I am very optimistic about the future of agriculture in Ontario. From my experience during my farming career and from many observations over the years I feel that we can be confident about the future and the continued productivity of our agricultural industry.

Growth and productivity do not just happen. They are the result of a lot of hard work and dedicated effort on the part of many people and many organizations. One of those organizations is government. The government of Ontario has developed numerous programs over the years in support of agriculture. There is a lot to be said about what government should do, whether it is about land, prices or emergency programs. But the government's major responsibility in agriculture is to help to ensure that our farmers can earn a decent living. If farming remains viable, if farmers can support their families at an income level commensurate with the work and investment they make, there will be no need of elaborate government programs to ensure our food supply. The farmers themselves will ensure it, because that is their business.

The approach this government has taken over the years is just that. All our agricultural programs have been designed to assist the farmer to do the thing that he does best, namely, produce and market food. We do not need complicated land preservation legislation to preserve agricultural land; we just need a climate in which farmers can make a decent living. I do not think anybody in this House would say that is an unworthy goal.

I am not going to review the programs that have been running for many years; most members and certainly all farmers are well aware of them. They have served the agricultural community well and in so doing they have served the province as a whole. Instead, I want to talk here for a few minutes about the new initiatives and recently developed programs.

The best possible way to make farming a viable undertaking is to ensure markets for farm products. It is not only a great deal less expensive than instituting fancy programs to shore things up; it is the only answer that businessmen or farmers really want. They do not want handouts; they want to be able to sell their products at a fair return.

In evaluating the markets for Ontario farm products, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has done a great deal of research into domestic food production and imports. Its work has shown that Ontario's imports are in great amounts and growing. In fact, a couple of years ago a leading chartered bank predicted that Canada would be in a food deficit position in little more than a generation if present trends continued. It is only Canada's large export of western grain that keeps this country in a positive trade balance in food right now.

As a result of that condition, the government of Ontario determined it was essential to attempt to reverse the trend. In the spring of 1977, the government announced that the Ministry of Agriculture and Food would embark on a new consumer-oriented program, the objective of which was to increase consumption of Ontario agricultural products by Ontario citizens. This is the program known as Foodland Ontario.

3:50 p.m.

The program has two thrusts. One is to inform people of the variety of high quality food produced by Ontario agriculture. The other is aimed at Ontario retailers and people in the food service industry, such as hotels, restaurants and institutions.

Consumer research carried out each year on the program has shown that progress is being made. For example, endorsement of the program has reached 87 per cent. One in two people are more aware of the high quality of Ontario food and they are becoming aware of the need to buy Ontario and keep this province healthy.

The Foodland symbol is now recognized by 61 per cent of Ontario's consumers. This program began in 1977. In the fall of 1978 the Ministry of Agriculture and Food was reorganized to give even greater emphasis to the marketing function. I think it is worth noting that since then similar reorganizations have occurred at the federal level and in other provinces.

In the future, import replacement is going to have an even greater urgency. Transportation costs just keep going up. In the future it may become too expensive to import food. Other nations may very well wish not to spend their scarce energy resources on shipping food to us. They may well find themselves in a position where production for export is not possible. We have no control whatever over any of these possibilities, so it is crucial that we have other alternatives available.

I have heard a lot of talk about the cost of producing food here as opposed to the cost of producing it in, say, the southern United States. But studies show it costs just about the same, for instance, to produce peaches from an acre of land here as it does in California. It is not the production cost that makes the difference, it is the productivity. But that does not have to be the limiting factor.

Let us look at corn, for example. No one, 30 years ago, would have believed how much corn we could grow in Ontario today. Now we are a

major corn producing area and we did it with research. We did it by developing highly productive hardy varieties and we have done the same thing with soybeans. I don't think it has to end there. There are all kinds of crops in this province with the potential for increased productivity. I don't think it is too fanciful, for instance, to look forward to a day when our peach industry is nearly as productive as California's.

It is well established that a strong research and development program is an essential component of a reliable agricultural industry. It is fortunate that here in Ontario we have a strong and effective research and development program for agriculture. It is obvious to me that with a thrust towards significant replacement of imports of fruits and vegetables, it is imperative that a continuous flow of new technology be assured. This new technology must be forward looking in order to support an expanding and effective horticultural industry.

Research by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food at the Vineland Research Station, which happens to be in the riding of Lincoln, on the effectiveness of protective environments for peaches and, through industry, on storage and packaging systems, both aimed at extending the period and availablility of fresh peaches, are examples of the forward looking research and development programs of this government.

Studies on long-term storage systems for both fruits and vegetables are on the high priority list for research and development activity for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food at Vineland, Simcoe and Bradford research stations and at the University of Guelph.

This discussion of expanding and improving our storage facilities brings me to the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program. As members are aware, the government introduced BILD in January of this year with a number of agricultural components. These are designed to give the kind of support to agriculture I was talking about a few moments ago.

Grants are being made available to cover one third of the construction or renovation costs to storage facilities. Also included are grants to upgrade packing and grading equipment. This program is being funded with $20 million over a five-year period.

In addition, a major tender-fruit tree replanting program will receive assistance. This program is designed to increase the production of fruit for processing, especially clingstone peaches. Bartlett pears for processing will also be included and $1.5 million has been aside for the program. This program will not only help raise production of Ontario fruit, it will help expand the processing industry.

Another area the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Henderson) has identified as having import replacement potential is that of asparagus. Under the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, $1.5 million is being made available over five years to assist farmers to expand asparagus production. This is an investment that could lead to a return of something like $4.2 million a year in replaced imports. Similar assistance is being provided in the dairy sector to increase production and further improve quality.

There is a BILD committee working on all these projects right now. It has members from the BILD secretariat, the Ministry of Industry and Tourism and the Ministry of Treasury and Economics, as well as senior representatives from Agriculture Canada. The committee is chaired by a senior staff member of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. It is the committee's responsibility to evaluate proposals under BILD and to promote BILD projects throughout the agriculture and food industry. We can expect to see some interesting developments quite soon.

I mentioned my experience in agriculture at the beginning of my remarks and I would like to expand on one aspect of that at this time. I have been associated for several years with marketing and, in particular, with marketing boards. Marketing legislation was passed in this House some 44 years ago and it has proven its worth over and over again.

All parties of this Legislature recognize the fundamental right of farmers to organize themselves to improve the marketing of their products. I do not think anyone in this chamber would dispute that right. Nevertheless, from time to time there is criticism of marketing boards and this is particularly true of those boards which operate under supply management programs. I would like to put into the record a few figures on that subject.

Last fall a report was prepared on price increases. The findings were instructive because between 1975 and 1979 the farm gate price of eggs rose 27.8 per cent and the price of chickens rose 13.4 per cent. In that period turkey prices went up 33.7 per cent and milk 23.6 per cent. In the same period, the consumer price index rose 38.1 per cent and the food component of that index rose 45.4 per cent.

In view of these findings, I do not think

accusations against marketing boards can be justified. Perhaps their biggest failing is getting their story across, because not enough people realize that marketing boards are among the most progressive groups we have.

Their role is to improve the marketing of their products. They participate actively in many programs aimed at increasing sales for producers all the way from advertising campaigns to new product development. One measure of their enthusiasm for promoting their products can be seen in the way they have participated in the Foodland Ontario program. They have backed this program strongly and have joined the ministry in many cost-shared campaigns.

I have dealt with a number of issues in my remarks. There are many facets of the agriculture and food industry but it is a highly interdependent industry where activity in one field quickly affects events in other areas. The programs designed by the government to assist agriculture are, in consequence, closely coordinated to achieve maximum benefits all through the industry from producer to consumer. A secure, safe and plentiful supply of nutritious food is the goal of everyone involved and that is clearly reflected in the programs of this government.

4 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Andrewes, and now the honourable member, Mr.—

An hon. member: Mr. Sargent.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Just call him the shooter.

Mr. Sargent: The one who drinks.

Mr. Speaker, may I say at this time that this large gathering reminds me of the small church up our way. Its congregation is dwindling very seriously and on one particular Sunday, the bishop himself came to take the service. After he started his sermon he noticed, much to his chagrin, that there was an even smaller congregation than was there before.

The Deputy Speaker: Mr. Sargent, this is obviously in reference to the throne debate, is it?

Mr. Sargent: I will get to that later.

He turned to the minister and said, "Did you tell them I was coming?" The minister said, "No, I don't know how in hell they found out." So this large turnout may be because of the fact that I am on the floor. What were you saying, Mr. Speaker?

The Deputy Speaker: I was just inquiring whether this was in reference to the throne debate.

Mr. Sargent: I have a very wide range in this. You must know that. As a new Speaker, we have to train you. You will catch on.

I would like to say at this time and place that it is a time for reckoning. The arrogance of this new government after the last election is of great concern to the people of Ontario. The blatant spending during the election was a shocking thing. Just as important, I believe, is the fact that we must assess the position we are in now with the beautiful resources we have here in Ontario. We shall have problems.

Election promises have always been a part and parcel of the Tory program for getting elected by the Big Blue Machine. In the last election we had a list of the previous campaign promises of the Tories, and there were about $900 million worth. In this last campaign it was much more than that. Here we have probably a billion dollars worth of promises, which is a total fraud.

In the last week, members may have received a copy of the orders in council. They want to pass now, to continue in business, a $4 billion bill that we have no chance to study or review. This is spending by the cabinet with no recourse by the elected representatives of the people.

That reminds me of the zebra who went into the barnyard and saw a bull. He said to the bull, "What do you do around here?" The bull said, "Take off your pyjamas and I will show you." The same thing has happened to the people of Ontario in my book.

No one is denying that. The Premier (Mr. Davis) decided to fight the election on his leadership ability—his leadership, his ability as a leader. I would like to point to a list of events that would make ex-President Nixon look good compared to the leadership of this party in Ontario.

Before I start out, I will tell you the motivation behind the Big Blue Machine, Mr. Speaker. This government is not run by the member for Brampton at all. He is a good politician, a good figurehead and a good con man, but this Tory party is controlled by a group of millionaires called the think tank. They meet every Thursday in the Park Plaza Hotel to direct the plundering of the treasury of Ontario.

They tell the Premier exactly what to do. They told him what to do in the election. He was not to appear on the platform with the two leaders of the opposition parties, because they

all knew that the Premier could not answer the questions and the public of Ontario would see him with his pants down. Those fellows would not be sitting there today if he had had the guts to face the electorate in a public debate. That was the gutless position the think tank took—not the Premier. He had no control; he was told what to do.

When the election was called, everything was in the can ready to go. The government spent 50 per cent of its yearly budget for advertising in Ontario in the first two months of the election—total skulduggery and misuse of the public funds. They even arranged for their buddy, Mr. Bassett, who owns CFTO, the most powerful Canadian TV station, not to agree to go along with the debate and to tell the people of Ontario they had no right to know what was going on.

That same station appointed only one reporter to cover the whole three parties, and last week that great Conservative friend was appointed by the government to be in charge of the new multibillion dollar convention centre development. They pay their friends. Even Global TV was in on the act not to cover the election. The people of Ontario were totally uninformed on the issues.

Hon. Mr. Welch: A fine Canadian.

Mr. Sargent: The Minister of Energy (Mr. Welch) is the last man who should say a word when I am speaking. He has sat in that job, which had four ministers before him who had the guts to try to answer a question. When I questioned this minister, he had the nerve to give me some crap about "looking into the matter." It is an insult not to answer questions raised in this House.

The Deputy Speaker: I would ask the member to be more orderly in his references to his colleagues in the Legislature.

Mr. Sargent: I am running this. It is a wonder you got the job in the first place, so don't you talk to me.

Hon. Mr. Welch: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Let the record show that the honourable member who is now speaking has not asked a single question of the Minister of Energy this session, so why is he talking about answering questions? The only question he has asked me was in a note yesterday to the effect that he was having trouble responding to reporters of a certain radio station. I assured him we would be glad to give him all the information he needed. That is the only question he has asked, and that by written note. What is he really talking about?

The Deputy Speaker: We remind all members that we do indeed allow some latitude in the Legislature, but let us not get out of hand.

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, you are going to see a lot of this in this session. I am not going to take from any minister the crap I am getting from him. I have repeatedly asked him questions—all the opposition knows that—but he never answers a question.

The Minister of Energy has never told us what happened on the $7.5-billion scam with Denison Mines. He gave them almost $500 million as an interest-free loan.

Hon. Mr. Welch: The estimates of this ministry will be before the committee.

Mr. Sargent: The minister always says that, but he does not know his portfolio. He is a joke. The reason he is there is that he will not answer questions in the House. The government has the biggest, most expensive portfolio in the cabinet run by a dummy like him. He has managed to sweep everything under the rug. I am incensed over the fact that I, who have sat in this place for 20 years, and the taxpayers, do not know what is going on. He has tricked us all.

He has allowed the Premier to open up the cash bag and to spread millions of dollars in any place he can buy votes for the past four years, all the while preaching total restraint. Since February 2, when the writ was issued, the bag has been open. The think tank decided how to spend the money and everybody marched along like little soldiers, giving away about $1 billion, bribing the public with its own funds.

One voter said to me, "Here we have the Premier boasting about his leadership while 143,000 of our young people under 25 years of age, representing 50 per cent of the population of Ontario, are walking the streets because they cannot get a job, nor do they have hope of ever getting a job." The unemployed rate of 14.5 per cent represented by that group of 143,000 people is the highest in the free world.

4:10 p.m.

The Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Grossman) told me that was a lie. I told him to look it up and gave him the page and the date in his own publication from the economic council. He did not apologize at all. There are no job training programs to any extent; there are no apprenticeship programs; and now we are importing thousands of skilled workers into Ontario. And the Premier calls this leadership.

The name of the game for him is think-tank advisers and controlling the money flow for the

establishment. Every single day they can stay in power, whether in a minority or a majority situation, they are making more millionaires. Someone asked Willy Sutton, the bank robber, why he robbed banks. He said, "That is where the money is." That is what the think-tank guys are doing. This is the big ball game, and they are running the show and pulling the strings. Name one guy on that think-tank adviser group who is not a multi-millionaire.

The first time I became amazed at the arrogance and skulduggery going on here was during the Fidinam affair. A reporter gave me a cheque for $50,000, which was cancelled, that had been paid off by Fidinam to get a construction contract for $20 million for the Workmen's Compensation Board building. No bids were called. I produced this $50,000 cancelled cheque in the House, showing the payoff from this Fidinam group. A firm that could not pay a $1,500-account that year was furnishing a $50,000-cheque to the government. They got the $20 million contract and also a $15-million loan.

I produced the cheque in the House, and they bounced me out of the House. In the meantime, they had an investigation, rapped a few knuckles and found they should not have done it. That started the ball game.

The next time we had the Premier and his friend Mr. Moog. He is a wealthy construction man who is a great buddy of the Premier. They got together and decided to build a classy, new Moog-an-Davis hotel here—the Hydro building. Mr. Moog and the Premier took a trip to Germany to raise the funds. The Premier told our committee hearing about it. He said, "When they were raising the funds, I stayed at the other end of the room. I did not want to hear what they were talking about."

They came back and they let the contract. No bids were called. They got the contract for a $43-million building down here—and nothing wrong with it. We had an investigation about that. They investigated themselves and they had a majority of their members on the committee; so nothing happened. A $20-million deal and away we go. I do not know how much Moog made out of the deal. The same guy, Moog, got the OISE building contract for $20 million with no tender bid. And he talks about leadership.

Last year Ottawa promised to give Ontario a $500-million equalization grant because we were a have-not province. The Treasurer (Mr. F.S. Miller) said, "No, we are not a have-not province. We do not want the $500 million." A half a billion dollars he turned down.

Mr. Riddell: Boy, could the farmers use that right now.

Mr. Sargent: You are damned right they could, and so could we at our hospital.

Mr. Riddell: We could keep the farmers right in business with that money. It is just a crying shame. It really is. It boggles the mind.

Mr. Breaugh: Just one speaker at a time.

Mr. Sargent: He is right on target.

Mr. Riddell: I love to get in on it because there is a dry rot over there.

Mr. Sargent: I am going to make a phone call.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Mr. Sargent has the floor, I believe.

Mr. Sargent: I do not know. Sometimes I think you are trying to take it, Mr.Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No. The standing orders specifically state that Speakers are not to take part in the debate.

Mr. Sargent: You can keep your head up.

Last year the Premier hurried a deal through the Legislature to meet a February 28 deadline. It was a $7.5-billion contract for uranium. At that time, uranium was selling for a dollar a pound at the mine head, but this contract called for a price of $40 to $60 a pound. They gave them a contract to the year 2010, and Denison Mines was guaranteed a profit of $2.5 billion regardless of what happened in the marketplace. That contract stood. On top of that, they gave them a $339-million loan, advanced interest-free for 40 years. This was signed by the Premier and hurried through the Legislature. It was a situation parallel to what Westinghouse had in the United States. Westinghouse renegotiated the contract with a cartel and won the case.

Mr. Kolyn: Who made the cartel?

Mr. Sargent: Trudeau, Denison and the guys. The honourable member is totally right, but the villain in the case is the fact this government could give a total package like that at unbelievable prices. They knew there were more finds in Saskatchewan, South Africa and Australia. What happened? Denison took our $339 million and bought a uranium mine in Australia with our interest-free money.

We cannot get a hospital in Owen Sound. We were promised a $5-million hospital 20 years ago. It was up to $10 million 10 years ago. Then it was up to $15 million. Last year it was $25

million. This year it is $35 million. In 20 years, what they are going to give us has gone up to $35 million but we never get the money.

They are always promising. It is no wonder I am angry. Here in the opposition we are being discriminated against, and I am fed up with the whole process. I do not know whether the question period means a damn thing or whether I should get up to speak and make a lot of enemies, but someone has to tell the truth. This will be the most corrupt situation in North America. It will make Watergate look like peanuts because they are going to have a blank cheque and no one can stop them. That is a fact. Who is to stop them?

John White, the former Treasurer of Ontario, was here and said he wanted to build a new city in Haldimand-Norfolk. He had a dream and he spent $60 million of our money to buy land.

An hon. member: A nightmare.

Mr. Sargent: A nightmare is right. What did he do? He had 20 visits in his apartment downtown, without the press, with the vice-president of A. E. LePage. He made a deal that LePage would get the whole contract. LePage got a $5-million commission but there was no contract, only a handshake. That is how the whole deal happened. That was the Treasurer of Ontario under the Premier's leadership.

Mr. Bob Macaulay used to be the minister of energy and was legal counsel to Ontario Hydro. The chairman of Hydro is Mr. Hugh Macaulay, who is the brother of Bob Macaulay. Bob Macaulay, as counsel for Hydro, had a bill for one year of $176,000 in legal fees. We have the family compact looking after its friends. I could go on right down the line.

The fact is retired cabinet ministers who had front seats in the Legislature have all got jobs at about $51,000 a year. They are on different commissions and are getting a $31,000-a-year pension on top of that. They are getting $82,000 a year because they sat in the front row and because they looked after their friends.

Our friend, Mr. John Yaremko, is making big bucks. He made a $1-million land deal the day before the Niagara Escarpment thing was to go into effect. He made the date for closure the day after he made the land deal and made $1 million.

I could go on down the line. We had Mr. Darcy McKeough here. He was a power, a real wheeler and dealer. He was at a cocktail party one night and promised Mrs. R. W. Todgham, the wife of the president of Chrysler, that he would look after $600,000 tax she had to pay on $2-million profit on a deal. Darcy said to her at the cocktail party: "I will look after you. I will cancel the tax for you." He cancelled the tax. I brought it up in the Legislature and was tossed out. She did not pay the tax. She has never paid the tax. That has been going on in Ontario for years and we still think it is good government and a good way to run an operation.

4:20 p.m.

The current scandalous thing I am trying to talk about is what is going on at Ontario Hydro. We have a 40 per cent surplus of power, so they are going to build a $600-million line under Lake Erie to feed power, cheaper than what we pay for it, to the Three Mile Island group across Lake Erie. They are going to spend $6 billion on Darlington, despite our 40 per cent power surplus, when the overrun for all nuclear plants across the world ranges from 25 to 400 per cent. A case in point is the last unit put into effect at Douglas Point, which came on stream about three months ago, was to cost $280 million,but it cost $880 million—a half a billion dollar overrun.

We have an overrun of maybe 500 per cent on the $6.6 billion on Darlington. We have the interest on the money, we have the $600 million to cross Lake Erie and now we have a new tax coming on—and acres and acres of spent fuel rods in swimming pools. They have to have a life protection of 2,000 years. They don't know where they are going to put them; so they keep on making more swimming pools and putting these spent fuel rods in there.

They are going to take $59 million a year out of our pockets for Hydro to put into the kitty so that in 1995 or 2000 they will have enough money to go out and find some place to put these spent fuel rods. It is totally irresponsible. We are looking at $15 billion, with interest, for all the build-ons and all the add-ons for Darlington with a 40 per cent power surplus. And they are talking restraint. It is mind-boggling. I could go on, but I don't want to go over my time.

Our farmers are in trouble. The last speaker hit on some of the high points. Our rural farmers are paying 29 per cent higher hydro rates than those charged to city residents. The cost of electricity to the farmers of Ontario is the highest in Canada. The farmers' net income in Ontario declined 32 per cent in 1980. Their 1981 operating expenses are forecast to grow by 19 per cent and depreciation charges by 14 per cent.

In Owen Sound we have two and three pages of farm auction sales every weekend—sometimes daily. I had a call the other night from a very

successful farmer near Port Elgin. He started to tell me the whole story of what was going on. I said, "Just a moment. Do you mind if I tape this?" and I taped our conversation.

The bottom line was there were 24 farms on his line and his was the only one left. They were all prosperous areas. He said, "The only reason I can hang on is I have a good job at the Pittsburgh plant and I have my son running the show. But God knows how long I can hang on." Regardless of the price at the farm gate, they can't meet the high cost of money at the bank, the interest rates.

We have a great pride in OHIP, but we have a great shortage of hospital beds. I have had two serious things happen in my family related to terrible hospital conditions. Our garbage goes up and down in the same elevator as the surgical team going to operate. It is the worst hospital in the country. We have the best staff, but we can't get money from the government. They said in our election that if they voted for Sargent they wouldn't get a new hospital. I told the Premier many times that I would resign my seat if he would give us a hospital. He wouldn't fall for it. He wouldn't go for it. What a way to run a province.

I think it is scandalous. The people of Ontario don't know what is going on here. They don't know how the members opposite are running the show. We are proud of OHIP. It is the envy of the United States. They are trying to copy the program.

It is the right of every citizen to have a hospital bed in time of need. But the shocking fact is that many people are dying unnecessarily because they can't get hospital beds, even though they are paying for them with their OHIP. That is another form of fraud. They pay for them, but they can't get hospital beds. June Rowlands is one of the most important aldermen in Toronto. I think she is in charge of budget here. Her mother tried 12 hospitals in Toronto and couldn't get a bed. And Mrs. Rowlands is a top authority in that field in Toronto.

I say that the Premier has his priorities all mixed up. He will never sit in this House and let us tell him what we think of him. As a man he is a great guy, but he runs a corrupt machine; that is all he does. That is bad enough. I told him one time in the House that if one is in the States and is running a corrupt machine one goes to jail. That is what would happen. But this is corrupt. There have been enough commissions over the years to vote this government a clean bill of health.

The $6 billion being squandered on Darlington would build 100,000 new hospital beds in Ontario. It would keep the farmers in business. The priority in my life is to see some justice along this line.

The shocking fact is that there are no jobs. I believe the situation that has developed today is the result of the troubles that are being created by the lack of jobs for our kids, our people and our farmers. The full package, the full price of the plant closings, the shutdowns, and layoffs that have reverberated through much of the Canadian economy, is beginning to be paid. It is being paid in the coin of human misery, in the broken dreams, in the wrecked lives of many who find they cannot cope with unemployment and rising inflation. The interest point today is around 20 per cent and it is going to go to maybe 24 per cent or 30 per cent. I think we are facing a very serious recession.

In the past year, 68 plants and industries have closed in Ontario, in some cases throwing entire communities into the chaos of mass unemployment with all of the social problems that come in its wake.

There are now 320,000 jobless people in this province, where inflation is pushing 12 per cent and interest rates are now at 20 per cent. An increasing number of Ontarians are finding it simply impossible to deal with the rapidly escalating mortgage payments—I am talking about today's food and energy costs—or with the stress of watching their families do without because the main provider can no longer bring home the bacon. The toll of human tragedy and suffering is tremendous. It is reflected in the rising suicide rate and the incidence of wife-beating, child abuse, alcoholism and mental disorders.

In the Oshawa-Whitby area, one of the areas of the province hardest hit by the plant shutdowns, the number of suicide cases has jumped from 21 to 35 in one year. That is a challenge that can only be met through co-ordinated and comprehensive employment strategies at both the provincial and federal levels.

The realization that unemployment is not solely an economic concern, but a social one that affects the quality of life for everyone, and ensuring full employment in Ontario and in Canada would require a stable industrial policy with widespread job training, apprentice programs, retraining programs and co-operation of business, labour and government. Leave the think tank out of it and the millionaires who are making their fortunes on nuclear power. Leave

them alone; they have had enough. They have put us in the spot we are in now. The messes that have been created for the people by regional government and school consolidation programs have cost unnecessary billions.

It is a task we cannot afford to put off any longer. The experience in Ontario sadly demonstrates that unemployment means more than embarrassing statistics. It means that people who desperately want to be productive, happy members of society find themselves caught in the web of economic circumstances beyond their control, out of work and frustrated as they are today. We can thank this government for many of our problems.

I am concerned, as I said before, about the plight of youth. I am very concerned about it. This ministry has a challenge to do something to put our kids into apprentice job training programs. I do not know what the future holds. I do know the future of Canada and of Ontario depends on our young people, and it is time we did something about it.

4:30 p.m.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to rise and join in this debate—I use the term loosely—on the speech from the throne. It is usual, when one rises, to congratulate various people around the building and the club. First, I would like to congratulate some of the old boys who survived, rather than the new boys and girls who entered.

I have some very strong memories of my own first speech in this Legislature in debating the speech from the throne back in 1972. I was looking at it the other night and I was immediately filled with an enormous sense of depression because my response to this speech from the throne is very much like my response to that speech from the throne.

Unlike most of my colleagues on this side of the House, I was not disappointed in the speech from the throne because there was nothing in the speech from the throne. One cannot be disappointed if there is nothing of substance in it. I was struck also by an enormous sense not exactly of powerlessness, but of what drives us to rise in this place, in this marvellous theatre of the absurd, when the benches are overflowing as they are this afternoon? What do we think we are accomplishing? That speaks to something very profound in Ontario politics because there has been an enormous deterioration of the respect in which the Legislature has been held by the government of the day, particularly under the present Premier (Mr. Davis).

For example, this afternoon there is not a single cabinet minister sitting in his place. I do not take that as a personal insult, but I take it as an insult to the Legislature that not only is the Premier not here, but not a single cabinet minister is here. I take it as an insult to the Legislature that there are fewer Tory back-benchers, when they have a majority, than there are NDP members of the House. I take that as an insult to the Legislature because I see the Legislature as a place—

Mr. Shymko: Where is the member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy)?

Mr. Foulds: Where is the member for Brampton (Mr. Davis)? Where is the member for Brock (Mr. Welch)? Where is the member for any of those 26 ridings where there are cabinet ministers?

The Deputy Speaker: Mr. Shymko, Mr. Foulds has the floor.

Mr. Foulds: I take it as an insult to the Legislature that nobody in the cabinet thinks it worth while to listen to the debate of their own back-benchers.

Leaving all that aside, I think we might just take a look at a few words that were spoken by William Faulkner when he had the honour of accepting the Nobel Prize for literature. He said: "It is easy enough to say that man is immortal simply because he will endure; that when the last ding-dong of doom has clanged and faded from the last worthless rock hanging tideless in the last red and dying evening; that even then there will be one more sound, that of his puny, inexhaustible voice still talking." One of the reasons—

Mr. Shymko: I think he wants a Nobel prize for oratory.

Mr. Foulds: The honourable member is an insult to the people of High Park-Swansea with that kind of contribution.

Mr. Shymko: The people of High Park-Swansea made their opinion well known.

Mr. Foulds: That is right, and the people of Ontario made their opinion well known. Fifty-six per cent of the people of Ontario voted against the honourable member's party. Just let him keep that in mind.

Mr. Shymko: They voted against your former member.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Order, Mr. Shymko.

Mr. Grande: The honourable members in that party should be ashamed of themselves for the kind of election that was run.

Mr. Philip: If there was ever an example of patronage to incompetence, the member for High Park-Swansea is that example.

The Acting Speaker: Order. Mr. Foulds has the floor.

Mr. Foulds: When Faulkner was speaking, I think he was trying to illustrate that one of the few tools we have as human beings that does not lead to destruction, one of the few tools we have to bring about change, is man's voice, his words, because they express his thoughts, his desires and his dreams.

My friend the former member for Lakeshore, Pat Lawlor, was fond of saying—

Mr. Shymko: He is after the member for Lakeshore (Mr. Kolyn) now.

Mr. Foulds: Why doesn't the member for High Park-Swansea just excuse himself?

He was fond of saying that we in the Legislature are essentially wordmongers, people who exchange and, it is to be hoped, change things with our words. That is why we engage in this kind of debate and that is why it is for me an honour, as it always is, to rise and participate in this forum.

First of all, I happen to think this forum is a good and honourable place in which to work, and I think it is a forum for work. I think it is a bit insane at times and when we have done away with the zoo period of our activities, commonly known as question period, which was so ably caricatured this morning in the editorial cartoon in the Globe and Mail, I think sometimes we may even accomplish something in this place.

Occasionally there are victories, not only in a minority government situation but also even with this thoughtless, stupid and incompetent majority government situation.

Sean O'Casey had one of his characters say constantly, "The world is in a terrible state of chassis." Ontario is in a terrible state of chassis, a state of uneasiness and discontent. The province is not what it has been. One only has to read the front pages of the newspapers to get the sense that everyone in Ontario believes that.

Certainly if one listed six or eight major topics or issues of the day—plant shutdowns and layoffs, housing, Confederation, inflation, health care, ageing and pensions, research and development, development of the north, and funding for social agencies and social concerns—one would have to look at them and say, "Ontario is in a terrible state of chassis."

One would also have to say that Ontario has not really coped with the crises in each of those issues well or honourably over the last 15 years. One would have to say that when Ontario was in an enormous growth period in the late 1960s and early 1970s, it had the potential for building in revenues and resources the way Alberta has today. But Ontario was stupid, shortsighted and did not take advantage of that situation. For example, over the last 60 years of its history it did not lay in a heritage fund from its resource sector that we could well put to use at the present time.

4:40 p.m.

On every single issue I have mentioned, any objective observer would say the government has failed to measure up to what the people had a right to expect of it. This government constantly fails to understand it is the business of government to intervene on behalf of its citizens. It is the business of government, because there is no other body or agency in society to deliver certain goods and services. That is a principle that even the Conservative government has reluctantly come to accept, for example, in the case of health care, even though I think it was John Robarts who called it originally "this nefarious scheme."

But, kicking and screaming, even the Conservative government in some areas of activity has been brought into the twentieth century. The trouble is, having been brought into the twentieth century, it poked its Conservative head up from under its blanket and saw the twentieth century. The present PC government wants to retreat to the nineteenth century; it does not like the twentieth century. It only understands certain things in the twentieth century that it enjoys, because they are like toys they play with.

The other night, my colleague the member for Cornwall (Mr. Samis) gave what I think was one of the finest contributions to the throne debate when he characterized the government party and its leadership as sleazy. He quoted extensively from a column by Allan Fotheringham. I would use another word. I would not use that word, although I have a lot of agreement with it. I would say the leadership of this government lacks guts.

The Conservative government under the Premier's leadership has never once taken leadership on an issue where it had to be unpopular. It has never taken a single initiative where it had to face against the prevailing winds. It has never once taken an issue where it took real courage to have a position.

This is government by public opinion poll.

This is a government with no core, no soul, no leadership. This is government where power counts for everything and principle counts for very little. Even worse, it is a government and a leadership that will deliberately use an issue to flog a minority—from the Franco-Ontarians in 1981 to the separate school issue in 1971.

The reason for that is very simple. The mentality of this government, having been so long in power, is that of the bully. It is an arrogant mentality. It is a mentality where the concept is that you only need the numbers in order to be right. It is not a mentality where integrity counts for much.

This gets me to the centre of the recent election campaign and to the recent speech from the throne. To get Ontario moving again—in the immediately forgettable words of that Labatt's-based jingle, to help Davis keep the promise—the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program has a budget of $1.5 billion. I do not know about other members of this House, but I find it difficult to conceive of $1.5 billion. Maybe the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Piché) can conceive of $1.5 billion, but I think the rest of us have a little difficulty doing so.

That sounds like a heck of a lot of money until one remembers two things. One must remember that $1.5 billion is about the amount of the annual deficit we have had in this province over the last six or seven years—not the amount of the budget, but the amount of the deficit. One must remember also that, while the government is prepared to budget $1.5 billion on its entire economic program and put this forward as the frontispiece of its economic drive in the 1980s, the Ontario government is spending four times that much, $6.7 billion, on one nuclear station, Darlington, which we do not need to meet our electrical power demands in the province.

On the one hand, we have $1.5 billion to get the province moving again in all its regions. That is the centre of the BILD program. On the other hand, we have $6.7 billion being spent on one nuclear station we do not need. That seems to me to be a slight imbalance, if I may put it mildly, in our economic thrust.

It is no good to say that $6.7 billion is not taxpayers' money or government money, that it is Hydro's money and it has to raise it. That forgets two important things. When one demands or removes $6 billion worth of investment from the market, does Hydro have to go out and get bonds on the market for that? That sucks the well dry of other investment. Any of those megaprojects simply deny to the rest of the province the capital that would be available for investment.

The second thing that argument forgets is that it may not be the taxpayers, but it is the consumers of electricity in Ontario who are paying, and the overlap between the consumers of electricity and the taxpayers of Ontario is about 99.9 per cent; so it is the same people.

Just think what we could do in this province with $6.7 billion or $6.5 billion for investment. Think what we could do in northern Ontario. Think what we could do in secondary industry, such as mining machinery manufacturing. If we made not all our mining machinery, but just our underground mining machinery (for those who do not know much about mining, there are two types, open-pit and underground), we could create something like 3,500 jobs in Ontario.

We could create a similar number of jobs if we manufactured all own forestry equipment and pulp and paper equipment. With the pool of investment being used by the Darlington nuclear station, we could create something like 7,000 jobs spread throughout the entire province; so there would not be a distortion or breaking of the fabric of the economy of the province, but a strengthening of it.

Think what we could do with the development of additional secondary industry in eastern Ontario—in high technology, for example—with some of that $6.5 billion.

4:50 p.m.

I found it very strange, when we came back from the recent wars on the hustings, that one of the first press releases by the Ministry of Natural Resources in my mail was this one, dated April 22. I took it in good faith but, when I saw the headline, I really could not believe it: "Canada Goose Eggs Headed for Arkansas." That is the heading.

"Cornwall—Eggs of Canada geese will be taken from nests along the St. Lawrence River to be transferred to Arkansas to establish a new flock of the birds there, Natural Resources Minister Alan Pope announced.

" 'We are pleased to co-operate in the Arkansas project, because the St. Lawrence flock has grown to the point that there are potential problems between local recreationists or farmers and the Canada goose flock. This project, we hope, will provide us with a means to control the size of our flock,' Mr. Pope said.

" 'This spring, the ministry's Cornwall district wildlife management staff are expected to transfer between 200 and 300 eggs in an initial step of

a three-year project to move 800 Canada goose eggs to Arkansas. Staff will not take all of the eggs from any one nest.

" 'Geese were established here over 20 years ago, and numbers have increased to the extent that transporting eggs to other parts of the continent is now possible. The local flock is now estimated to be about 3,000 birds,' the minister said."

I think that is the government's entire economic program for eastern Ontario. That is its program for goosing the economy in eastern Ontario. It really boggles the mind. What else have they announced for eastern Ontario since we had the election?

Mr. Cassidy: Poplars.

Mr. Foulds: Poplars and geese. What they could do, if they had some sense, would be to use that $6.5 billion or some portion thereof to develop some cottage industry, some manufacturing industry and some additional tourism facilities. What they could do would be to use that money in a constructive way to create full-time, year-round jobs in eastern Ontario, just as we could in northern Ontario.

Six and a half billion dollars is a lot of money that we could be spending. We could be spending it in the many regions of Ontario. We could be spending it in the industrial heartland, in southwestern Ontario, to avoid a number of the effects of the plant shutdowns and layoffs that have been a tragedy of that area for the last three or four years.

We could use it in the Niagara Peninsula to help preserve our agricultural processing industry. We could even use it here, in Metropolitan Toronto, to demonstrate a real commitment to public transportation.

We could use that $6.5 billion across the province to develop its economy. That is a lot of money. Instead, this government decides, in its priorities, that it will spend one quarter of that to develop the whole province. It will spend that $6.5 billion of capital that is available to develop one nuclear power station for electricity for which there is no demonstrated need. That is just nuts. The BILD program is a sham, just as the recent election was a massive public relations exercise.

I want to deal specifically with three topics but, before I do, I want to point out that there is an interesting characteristic about the Premier: he is obsessed with technology; he was obsessed with technology when he was Minister of Education. Members should read a speech he gave in 1968, which is quoted in Loren Lind's book, The Learning Machine: A Hard Look at Toronto Schools, about the process of humanity from the incubator through to old age. It is the most frightening technological dream enunciated by a politician or a supposed leader that I have ever encountered. It is a dehumanizing view of humanity.

His great accomplishment as Minister of University Affairs and Minister of Education was the creation of TVOntario. I do not quarrel with that. I think TVOntario, especially Elwy Yost, is doing a good job; I like those Saturday night movies. But that was the thing he concentrated on. His commitment was to the technology of the twentieth century, not to the humanity of the twentieth century or our school system.

In terms of health care, we have a government that is obsessed with technology, with CAT scanners, with helicopters for medevac and helicopter pads on the tops of hospitals in northern and southern Ontario. All of those things are important, good and an enormous advance, but the central fact is that the basic need in our health care system right now is more hospital beds, more nurses and more staff.

It should be no surprise, because we have an ageing population, that people are going to need more hospital beds and that we, as a society, are going to need more chronic care beds. But the cutbacks in services, the so-called restraints of the last eight years, have put enormous pressure on emergency services. Every five or six months we hear horror stories from Metropolitan Toronto, Windsor or Thunder Bay, illustrating how someone has died inappropriately—if one can use that inadequate term—because of inability to gain admittance to an emergency ward. There is always the argument that the person might have died in any event, but the fact is that many times emergency admittance has not been available when it should have been.

There is also pressure in intensive care units, and requirements will not be met until this government recognizes the simple fact that when a person needs a hospital bed, it should be there; there should be no ifs, ands or buts about that. It should be taken as a right, because nothing is more important to human endeavour than basic health care.

I want to quote a few paragraphs from an editorial in this morning's Globe and Mail, which indicates in a succinct way how the present minister and government have their priorities topsy-turvy. It is headed, "Doc Timbrell's Potion," and reads as follows:

"What a sharp eye on Ontario, Health Minister Dennis Timbrell has. He knows the costs of the provincial health insurance plan are rising, and makes a couple of swift calculations. If the plan weren't being billed by so many doctors, it wouldn't have to pay out as much money; to reduce its bills, then, the government yearly has to cut down the number of doctors. The logic is flawless.

"By the same token, of course, if the hospitals throughout the province were closed, we could save a bushel of public money. The government had a run at these institutions two years ago, closing beds with devilish abandon until the Ontario Supreme Court ordered it to stop at the door of Windsor's Metropolitan Hospital; the minister, said Judge R. G. Trainor, wasn't living up to his responsibility under the Ministry of Health Act to ensure adequate health services. So at least one institution won a reprieve.

5 p.m.

"Now Mr. Timbrell has turned his attention to the proliferation of doctors. He has suggested to Ontario's medical schools that they reduce their enrolment by a certain percentage, one he hasn't quite worked out. The government reasons that doctors are leading the people to make too many demands on the health care system, and that if there were fewer doctors, people wouldn't feel quite as free to drop by their office with minor aches and pains.

"To reach this conclusion, the government has to believe one of two things. Either there are hypochondriacs clogging the system, and a reduction in the number of doctors would dissuade them from seeking consultation—a dubious proposition. Or the doctors, because their numbers are swelling, are encouraging patients to make unnecessary appointments and undergo needless examinations. If this is the case, surely the answer lies not in trimming the ranks of the profession, but in laying down stiffer guidelines for the individual doctors.

"According to Dr. Fraser Mustard, vice-president of McMaster University's Health Sciences Centre, the number of medical student places in Ontario is one per 13,700 people, compared with the ratio of one per 10,000 maintained in some other provinces and the ration of one per 14,000 in Britain. Why does Mr. Timbrell feel Ontario's rate is out of line? Has he considered that, since the median age of Ontarians is increasing, the province might have the need of extended health services, even if the population remains constant? The use of doctors' services has grown at the rate of two per cent for the past seven years; are people being given frivolous treatments, or are more of them receiving the care they need?

"The government has kept an astonishingly tight grip on medical costs; health costs totalled 4.5 per cent of the gross provincial product in 1975-76 and only 4.3 per cent in 1980-81, but there is no sense in keeping that grip at the expense of accessible and thorough medical care." I could not agree more.

Those are not the words of a raving socialist. That is by Dick Doyle, from Chatham, a member of the Conservative establishment, in an editorial in the Globe and Mail.

I want to talk for a few minutes about inflation. I want to talk about inflation because my leader, the member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) raised the question with the Premier (Mr. Davis) this afternoon and the Premier wrang his hands, as he is wont to do, and said it is a federal government problem.

Not only that, but he said: "I have already telexed the Prime Minister during the course of the election campaign to have a conference about it. I don't know what we are going to say to the Premiers. I don't know what we are going to say there." He refused to tell us what proposal he was going to make.

But he shoves that problem off on the federal government, saying, "We can't control it." And the federal Liberals, if you watch Allan MacEachen, wring their hands and say nothing can be done about inflation. It is a problem that is worldwide. We import it from other countries. We can't be entirely self-sufficient.

Last night he talked about those workers from the safety of the Albany Club. Was it there? It certainly was not at a local meeting of the United Auto Workers or the Canadian Paperworkers Union. It was at the Conference Board of Canada or one of those safe audiences that the treasurers of Ontario and Ottawa are wont to make their pronunciations about the working men.

He said: "Don't you guys expect to get more money to make up for the extra cost you are going to have to pay for your gas and oil bills. It has to be absorbed by the economy. That means you guys who work on the assembly lines, in the bush or in the pulp mills."

That is absolute nonsense. I suppose the fundamental difference between people in this party and people in the other two parties is that we believe in a redistribution of income. We believe that people on the lower end of the scale actually are entitled to a bit more.

If that means people at the top have to pay some more taxes to finance it, we do not find that unusual or abhorrent. We find it makes some common sense that those of us who are well and working in society and who are relatively well off should help those less well off and in need of assistance.

The Premier and the Treasurer wring their hands and talk about how the market forces must prevail. I point out to them that there is no market when it comes to houses. When the market is askew, the federal government says it is international forces. "International forces" reminds me of a sinister saying of Generalissimo Franco about the fifth column in Madrid.

I have a modest proposal to make. Even granting their denial that they can take any fundamental fiscal action—and I and my colleagues would argue that there are actions they could take to ease inflation—I have a modest proposal to make that would ease the impact of inflation on the average family in Ontario. It is not a radical proposal. It just has four or five commonsense elements to it.

First, we now have compulsory auto insurance in this province. If we had compulsory government auto insurance, we could cut the premiums of most of the drivers in Ontario in half. We could save the average family in Ontario about $90 to $100 a year, as in Saskatchewan or Manitoba. That great Tory government in Manitoba sure did away with public auto insurance, did it not? And the great public free enterprise government of British Columbia, which the government is so fond of endorsing, did away with public auto insurance, did it not? This government is just like these guys. When they get in, the service is just excellent. Have you ever heard anybody from Saskatchewan complain? If they did that, just from a consumer point of view, they could save the average family in Ontario about $80 to $100.

Second, if they took a really progressive step and managed to do something dramatic and fundamental to realign the tax structure in Ontario and to remove education from the property tax—because education is a service to all the people of the province—they could save the average property taxpayer in the cities and rural municipalities between $300 and $500, because they have to pay property and school taxes too. They would cut property taxes in half.

Third, they could free up some revenue the local municipalities could use to provide better services for those things that should be provided. Everyone could do it at the local level. Those guys are fond of local autonomy. And if they took a really radical step, if the Treasurer actually turned over in his grave on his way to budget night a couple of weeks from now and had the courageous thinking to do what six other provinces in Canada and the territories have done, abolish health insurance premiums, they could save a family up to $400-odd.

Fourth, we could stimulate the economy, not in one big flashy dramatic way, but to see if there was a way we could slowly encourage people to buy a few of the things they need, maybe a toboggan for the kids or an extra pair of boots, or maybe an automobile—domestically produced, one would hope. If they reduced the sales tax from seven to five per cent—not a huge reduction—that could probably save $100 or $200, depending on the purchasing power of the family.

Those four modest steps are nothing outrageous and are something implemented in a number of other provinces that do not even have a left-of-centre orientation. If they were taken, they could save the average family in Ontario at least $1,000. Why not do something like that?

5:10 p.m.

The government says it cannot control the international forces and it cannot control the federal government, and the Premier—after being in bed with Trudeau over the constitution for so long—says that he does not have any chips to collect, which is the cheapest giveaway that I have heard of in a long time, and I use the word "giveaway" politely.

If the government did all of those things where it does have authority, where there is no question about the government's authority to take action, it would at least lessen the impact on people of Ontario by about $1,000 per family, which in many cases is 20 per cent of their income or more.

There are two other topics I want like to deal with briefly —well, not so briefly—before I wind up my remarks.

An hon. member: Before six o'clock.

Mr. Foulds: It's all right. The member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko) can relax. I have to catch a plane at 7; so I will be out of here before 6. Just relax.

An hon. member: Touch on three or four topics; it's all right.

Mr. Foulds: That is very good of the honour-

able member. His graciousness is overwhelming. But one is not supposed to heckle unless one is sitting in his own seat.

An hon. member: Your leader even came back.

Mr. Foulds: If the member wants to heckle he should get back into his own seat. Does he not know the basic rules of the game yet? It is sort of like sitting in the foul territory in a baseball game.

One of the marks of a civilized society is the way the government of that society treats its handicapped and those people less fortunate than most. In the social service area, it is a different story when it comes to funding those programs that those cabinet ministers responsible in the social service area are so fond of talking about, the community programs of deinstitutionalizing people from psychiatric hospitals and putting them in community care homes or putting them with special care hostesses, I think they are called, in private homes.

I have no argument with that theory; in fact, it is a program and theory that I would encourage, and would encourage the government to develop. I do not know about other members of the House but, over the years, I have known a number of people who have been committed to providing care for people who were—I hate to use the word—deinstitutionalized from the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital. For each one of their residents they get the magnificent amount of something like $12.50.

Mr. Shymko: We want the exact figure now.

Mr. Foulds: The honourable member would like the exact figure, would he? I have the exact figures, and I guess I just misplaced them.

Mr. Shymko: You need some research assistance.

Mr. Foulds: One of the things that happens when your numbers get reduced from 33 to 22 is that you lose some of your backup staff. Anyway, it is actually detecting assistance that I need, and not research assistance. But now I have it right here.

Oh, my goodness! It used to be $12.50. Effective April 1, 1981, the per diem rate will increase from $13.14 to $14.56 which, as a total, represents an 11.14 per cent increase over the previous rate, which had been held steady for years.

Let us consider a person who is doing his job properly but who is not getting enough to feed a person properly or to house a person properly. And let us be realistic and admit that people who are in those kinds of homes will occasionally have some kind of emotional crisis and cause extra damage to the home; that cost is not picked up by the ministry. If the government really wants to make that program effective, I suggest it will have to pay a little bit more than that, because to keep them in the institution itself would cost a couple of hundred dollars.

The other thing in the social service area that I have found very difficult to cope with is the funding for the associations for the mentally retarded. I want to raise the example of the Lakehead Association for the Mentally Retarded, because it is not unusual. Because of the funding policies of the Ministry of Community and Social Services up until the negotiations that are taking place about the current budget, that association was having to pay its counsellors approximately two thirds of what counsellors in similar positions were being paid in government institutions, such as the psychiatric hospitals.

As well as that, in the sheltered workshop the budget is such that they can pay the clients who work an eight-hour day 21 cents an hour. I submit that if we want to encourage people who have been labelled as mentally retarded or retarded in any sense, one of the ways in this capitalist society that we can encourage their sense of worth is by paying them somewhat more than a lousy 21 cents a day. It might not even be a revolutionary concept that we would pay them the basic minimum wage. After all, they are working to the best of their ability to contribute as much as society will allow them to contribute. Is asking the minimum wage for them too much?

If one of the marks of a civilized society is the way it treats those less fortunate, I submit that this government has failed the society of Ontario when it comes to dealing with people who are in the community branch of programs in psychiatric hospitals and people who are under the care of the associations for the mentally retarded.

Finally, I want to talk a bit about northern Ontario. It is interesting that, during these days of provincial-federal wrangling over the constitution, northern Ontario remains, in my view, the forgotten land of Confederation. We are characterized by the west and by Quebec as being part of fat-cat Ontario. We are taken for granted by southern Ontario as its resource hinterland. Northern Ontario constantly has had to fight for its rightful place in the social and economic fabric of our province and our country.

We hear talk of deindustrialization in southern Ontario, we hear talk of western alienation and we hear talk of Quebec's possible separation. But we hear very little of northern Ontario's place in the province and our country, even though all three of those characteristics— alienation, sense of separation and industrialization —all apply to northern Ontario.

I failed to hear in the speech from the throne, and I have yet to hear from a single provincial Conservative from northern Ontario, any serious public commitment to developing northern Ontario's economic strength in a planned and orderly way.

5:20 p.m.

The federal Liberals are obsessed with the constitution and the niceties thereof. The provincial Conservatives are obsessed with expensive technology, such as nuclear plants and no-strings-attached giveaways to their friends in the multinational corporations.

In terms of resources in northern Ontario, we have a crisis in our wood supply. We have hada crisis in that wood supply for the pulp and paper industry, and we have an iron ore industry in decline. On the other hand, in the manufacturing sector we have continued to have a strong and thriving steel industry, yet that strong and thriving steel industry in Ontario obtains 52 per cent of its raw ore or ore pellets from captive mines in the United States, while rich deposits in Ontario, at Lake St. Joseph and Bending Lake, lie idle.

We have great ports at Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie that could be the keys to industrial development in northern Ontario, but we have governments in both Toronto and Ottawa that see the primary purpose of those ports as being to ship out raw materials, natural resources. We in northern Ontario know that every time we ship out unprocessed raw resources instead of manufactured goods, we ship out jobs and we lose our young people.

What then should we be doing? We should develop northern Ontario ports on the seaway to assist in our economic development and to help prevent our consumers from paying outrageous prices for manufactured goods. I am sure that from time to time my colleague the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) will be talking extensively about the prices that consumers in his riding have to pay for goods that we in the cities of northern Ontario do not even face, even though our prices are higher than in the rest of the province.

We must guarantee jobs in the forest industry, now and in the future, not only by an all-out reforestation program but also by making sure that the reforestation program is integrated in such a way that it naturally ties in with the manufacturing sector of the pulp and paper industry.

We must guarantee jobs in the mining industry by insisting that the Ontario steel industry uses Ontario's iron ore. We must bring those rich deposits in Bending Lake and Lake St. Joseph on stream in an orderly and planned manner.

We must broaden the economic base of northern Ontario by using crown corporations and private and public capital to develop a mining machinery manufacturing industry and a furniture industry, using the wood resources that are currently being wasted.

We must insist on a northern research institute, using the human resources of our post-secondary institutions, such as Laurentian and Lakehead universities and our community colleges.

It is that kind of program that attracted me to the New Democratic Party and makes me proud to be a member of the New Democratic Party, and it is that kind of program that I know will eventually propel the New Democratic Party, in all the regions of Ontario, into government in this province.

To sum up this speech, Mr. Speaker, like all of my speeches in this Legislature, it is a thank-you to the people of Port Arthur riding. Going back to my first contribution to the speech from the throne debate almost 10 years ago, I said this about my constituency:

"Like all northerners, the people of Port Arthur are fiercely independent, sometimes ornery, but always a lovable type of people. I can think of no greater pleasure than representing that independent, gutsy, ornery viewpoint to the Ontario Legislature."

I particularly want to thank the people of Port Arthur riding in view of the last election. All the pundits were predicting on election day, and the day before, that the Conservatives would win. Just read those old clippings from the Toronto Star, the Toronto Globe and Mail, the Toronto Sun and even the Thunder Bay Chronicle-Journal. They all said the Conservatives would win Port Arthur riding. But the Conservatives did not win, for a number of reasons; they made a number of mistakes.

One of my colleagues says, "Tell us about it"; so I will. It felt pretty good to be in that

campaign in Port Arthur during the last election. I felt a kind of special attention from the Premier for the first time in 10 years.

One night, I was able to watch television for an hour and a quarter with my two boys. During that time, there were five Conservative television ads. This was not during the hot part of the campaign towards the end but when it was just beginning. The ads were all first in the sequence of commercials in the various breaks. Mr. Speaker, you know enough about television advertising to know that is not natural in the roulette system that is used. One pays for that placement in the same way that one pays for placement of newspaper ads. There were five in an hour and a quarter. Goodness knows how many they ran during the entire campaign.

The ridings of about 12 of us, including my friend the member for Cornwall (Mr. Samis) and myself, received three visits by the Premier. Until that time, the Premier had not been in Port Arthur three times in his entire life. Those three visits were flattering to me but unfortunate for the Premier, because they did not work for him.

Mr. Cassidy: Talk about the ethnic banquet.

Mr. Foulds: I would read a clipping about it but, unfortunately, I do not have it with me. However, I do want to talk about the first visit. The first visit was the promise of the big contract at Can-Car. That was the first time the Premier came with his cheque book. I listened to the Premier very carefully. He said, "I will instruct the Minister of Transportation and Communications to begin to negotiate a contract."

An hon. member: That is pretty tough.

Mr. Foulds: That is really tough. To this day, the contract has not been signed.

Mr. Wildman: Has he begun, though?

Mr. Foulds: No. The layoffs in Can-Car will take place before that contract takes place. I think those layoffs will take place before the contract is actually signed.

The second visit was the ethnic-multicultural banquet. It was unfortunate that the press gallery could not make it. There was only one reporter, who fed the story to the other papers. I wish I could read to members the eyewitness account by the Thunder Bay paper, but I do not have it here.

However, while the Premier was preaching power and spreading Conservative balm to the ethnic community, one of the members of his party, who was wearing a big Davis badge with "PC" on it, engaged in unflattering descriptions of some ethnic people who had the temerity not to give the Premier a standing ovation, who had the independence to applaud the Premier for coming and for what he said but not to stand as the Tory hacks in the audience did.

That person slandered the ethnic community in a way that was unfortunate for the occasion, for the Premier and for the ethnic community. Basically, that person indicated that these people who came from lands other than Britain should go back to those lands if they did not want to stand for the Queen. It was much more forcefully put and in language that was much less parliamentary. It was unfortunate.

5:30 p.m.

On the third visit of the Premier, we expected him to announce the second contract. The member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy) had already announced the second contract, and the candidate in the Port Arthur riding had already hinted that there was going to be another contract for the shipyards, which happen to be in my riding of Port Arthur. Can-Car happens to be in Fort William, in the Tory riding.

This announcement was to come the day before the election. The Premier came and he did not make the announcement. Why did he come empty-handed? Because the Tories took a poll in my riding on the Monday before election day—the third in the campaign—and found they were not going to win it; so they did not bother to write the cheque or give the contract.

Mr. Breaugh: Did he bring his cheque?

Mr. Foulds: He brought his cheque but he left it blank.

Another strange thing that happened was that the Premier actually allowed his office to be used during the campaign. People were phoning on government lines from the Premier's office; they were phoning people in my riding to find out if they were going to vote Tory. I know this because the Premier or one of his assistants actually made the mistake of phoning my mother. That is scandalous, absolutely scandalous. She had moved to a senior citizens' apartment and had changed her phone number.

It was only at the third question when they said to my 77-year-old mother, who is slightly deaf, "What do you think of this guy Jim Foulds?" She said, "Well, he is my son, you know." She actually thought somebody from the Premier's office was making a personal phone call.

I really do not think the Premier should use his office that way. When the Premier chastises

the Liberal Party for using the telephone lines for polling surveys, I really do not think he should have his office do it to conduct three telephone surveys in one campaign.

Another strange thing happened on the way to the ballot box in Port Arthur riding. There were at least seven cabinet ministers who visited, as well as three visits by the Premier. We have never been so flattered. People were saying, "Jim, you must be really working hard to get these guys up here." And I said, "I do my best."

There were six or seven cabinet ministers. We lost count. They even brought one cabinet minister in secretly—no fanfare, no announcement. They brought him into a small meeting of 40 people in the rural part of my riding so that it would be a big surprise. It was one of those local services board meetings. The community of Lappe had decided to set up a community service board, and they thought they would get the then Minister without Portfolio, now the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) with no advance publicity.

I happen to have good rapport with the people of Lappe. I happen to like them: they happen to like me. I do as much as I can in terms of being their elected representative, and I have gone to bat for them on a number of issues. They invite me to their coffee parties, their teas, their bake sales and their meetings. So they invited me to the meeting, because they had no advance warning the Tories were going to bring a cabinet minister to this meeting. They invited me, not to give a speech or anything, but just to say hello to the folks and listen to how the local services board is set up. We did that. What was nice was that the chairman of the meeting was absolutely nonpartisan.

At the end of meeting, when they had done their business and adjourned, they introduced each of the candidates. There was the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope). He was a little out of his riding, but they allowed him to stand up, wave his hand and sit down. There was the Conservative candidate; they allowed him to stand up. They also introduced me. There were no speeches or anything. It really was odd for the Tories to fly a cabinet minister 800 miles just to wave his hand at 40 people.

Mr. Cassidy: It is 1,600 miles.

Mr. Foulds: Yes, 800 there and 800 back, and just to wave his hand at 40 people. There was nothing in the papers. There was no policy announcement. Then there were the five over-cover agents. Anyway, I felt as if I were a bit in my bunker, being strafed by the Tory Luftwaffe. But we survived. We have more than survived because we increased our margin. We tripled it from a landslide in 1977 of 339 to something like 1,460.

I have a number of people to thank. Let me take the unusual step of thanking them here in the Legislature. First, I would like to thank my wife because she is one of the most marvellous people it has been the pleasure of anybody to know. She has stood by me in political life and she is a fantastic canvasser. She is one of the world's best canvassers. She is probably better than me. She is just absolutely super and I would like to say thank you to her.

I would like to thank my campaign manager, an old friend for many years, a woman called Mo Davies, who did a marvellous job. I would like to thank my 77-year-old mother because canvassing for the Foulds family of Port Arthur is a family affair. My mother was quite ill at the beginning of January. But, as soon as the Premier called the election on February 2, she went to the doctor and said, "Can I go outside?" He said, "Yes, Dorothy, the exercise will do you good." She was out canvassing with me twice a day, every day of the campaign, for an hour and a half each time. For a 77 year-old-woman that is a remarkable achievement. I would really like to thank her.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What about all those cabinet ministers?

Mr. Foulds: Why do you keep stealing my best lines? The member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) always does that to me as well.

I would like to thank the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) for coming secretly. I would like to thank the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson), the Minister of Labour (Mr. Elgie) and the five other cabinet ministers. I would like to thank the Premier (Mr. Davis) for the overkill.

I just want to wind up with a word about my colleagues. Why do we engage in this? I admit this election was not the most successful election the New Democratic Party has engaged in. We suffered a considerable setback. We all recognize that. But why are we in such good form and spirits? Oh, we had a few moments of depression.

I will tell members why. It is because the people in this party, the people in this caucus, are committed to some fundamental changes in our society. That is what makes us different from the other two parties. It is not our wish merely to make the present economic and social

system tolerable to those who are less fortunate in our society. It is our wish to change that economic and social system so they can be full partners in our society.

5:40 p.m.

I thought I would just read a couple of sentences to put that in a nutshell. "When private profit is the main stimulus to economic effort, our society oscillates between periods of feverish prosperity, in which the main benefits go to speculators and profiteers, and of catastrophic depressions in which the common man's normal state of insecurity and hardship is accentuated.

"We believe that these evils can be removed only in a planned and socialized economy in which our natural resources and the principal means of production and distribution are owned, controlled and operated by the people. The new social order at which we aim is not one in which individuality will be crushed out by a system of regimentation, nor shall we interfere with cultural rights of racial or religious minorities. What we seek is a proper collective organization of our economic resources such as will make possible a much greater degree of leisure and a much richer individual life for every citizen."

Those are principles that were enunciated in the document called the Regina Manifesto in 1933. Those are principles that this party still believes in and still fights for. We will not rest in this province until this caucus and this party have brought about a greater degree of leisure and a much richer individual life for every citizen. It is because of that we will soldier on during the next four years. We will grow and develop and eventually we will become the government of Ontario.

Mr. Eves: Mr. Speaker, I am honoured and delighted to address this House for the first time as the new representative for Parry Sound riding. It is my sincere hope that in the years to come I will be able to represent this riding with the same dedication and ability as my predecessor the Honourable Lorne Maeck.

Although just newly elected, I feel that I may speak on behalf of Parry Sound riding with great confidence, having received such an overwhelming mandate on March 19. In fact, my victory was such that my colleagues have been moved to nickname me "Landslide Eves."

An. hon. member: All six of them?

Mr. Eves: They are all right here.

The election was a particularly memorable one for me because I had to fight off two Liberal candidates, once my NDP opponent threw in the towel and with five days left begged his supporters to vote Liberal. The Parry Sound race will probably go down in Ontario's history as initiating a return to the two-party system. Of course, if all the NDP candidates had been blessed with the same prophetic vision as my opponent, we would probably be spilling over into the opposition benches today, instead of just overwhelming the Liberals and the NDPs from across the floor.

In all seriousness, though, the riding of Parry Sound is made up of many different and varied groups, and its people are very individual in their opinions and philosophies. Because they are not inclined to follow a trend, I was particularly proud to have won their confidence and trust. I am honoured to be able to stand in this House today and address a number of issues that have particular significance for my riding of Parry Sound as well as being of great concern to our province in general.

As members are aware, Ontario is currently facing a serious threat to its clean, healthy environment in the form of acid rain. The severity of the acid rain situation in Ontario and the need for quick remedial action stems from the increase in acidity of precipitation, largely originating from the transboundary pollution of US air masses during the past 20 or more years.

I am told by officials of the Ministry of the Environment that acid rain has increased to the point where rainfall from many parts of southern Ontario is now 15 times as acidic as normal rain. The cumulative effect of this acidic rain could well, over time, kill most of the fish and aquatic life in Ontario's recreational heartland. In fact, Ontario scientists estimate that if 1980 levels of acid loadings remain constant or increase over the next 10 or 20 years Ontario could lose much or all of the aquatic life in some 48,000 susceptible lakes.

Although much of the Georgian Bay portion in my riding is protected from the effects of acid rain by its buffer capacities, approximately 90 per cent of some 300 lakes tested by the Ministry of the Environment in Parry Sound and Muskoka districts are extremely to moderately sensitive to acid rain. These figures illustrate just how crucial the situation is to the survival of our region's aquatic life if acid rain, largely from United States sources, is not brought under control quickly. The damage this would do to tourism, particularly sport fishing in Ontario, goes without saying.

Obviously, a resolution of this issue is critical to my riding as well as to many other areas in the province in which tourism currently thrives. Cottagers from southern Ontario cities, such as Toronto, Hamilton and other centres, not to mention many American residents who come to our part of the province each year to vacation and fish, also have a personal stake in seeing this problem solved. The concern this problem is generating in many communities was reflected at a recent meeting of the Parry Sound District Municipal Association, when some delegates voiced concern that the district might eventually resemble some of the barren areas found in the Sudbury region. This, of course, is indicative only of the worst possible scenario and would fall within the realm of possibility only if absolutely nothing was done to curtail acid rain.

Fortunately, this government has an unparallelled record in dealing with the critical problem of acid rain. Ontario was one of the first jurisdictions in North America to recognize the extent of the threat that acid rain poses to our environment. Today, as a result of our research and monitoring expertise, our province is recognized as the leading authority on acid rain in North America. In this capacity, we have played a major role in bringing into public focus and to the attention of the Americans the phenomenon of acid rain and its transboundary effects. We will continue to do so until we receive a firm commitment that controls will be put back in place to curtail current emissions of acid-causing pollutants that flow from the United States into our province.

In view of the province's serious concern about pollution from existing plants in the US, our government has shown its commitment to combating acid rain by taking its case to Washington. In a precedent-setting legal step, it has drawn to the attention of the administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency, actions which are believed to violate the recently signed memorandum of intent. Ontario is opposing the 20 applications before the EPA from six states to relax current emission requirements and to reverse the decisions affecting the plants approved last year.

Also, just about a week ago, our Minister of the Environment (Mr. Norton) attended a luncheon conference on acid rain held at the State University of New York. There he presented Ontario's concerns to the US government officials and representatives of the coal industry and coal-burning power utilities. In making his statement, the minister made this clear, and I quote: "To me, my government and our citizens, Ontario's environmental quality is simply not negotiable. There cannot be any increases in North America's emissions."

The movement of pollution across our national boundaries means that an effective, long-term solution to acid rain can only be developed if all jurisdictions involved work together. In fact, there is considerable evidence that the impact of acid rain on our province would not be significantly reduced if we eliminated every one of Ontario's emission sources. A solution ultimately lies in reaching agreement with our neighbours to the south.

Although the Reagan government is less than enthusiastic about supporting environmental programs at the expense of industrial expansion, Canada's voice is being heard in the United States and we are making gains. Of course, our efforts have not been confined to curtailing emission sources in the United States. The largest single source of acid-causing pollutants in Canada is Inco's smelting operations in Sudbury and the second largest source of these pollutants in Ontario is Ontario Hydro's thermal plants.

During the past year the government of Ontario has passed cabinet regulations, which are not subject to a statutory appeal, restricting current and future emissions at Sudbury by Inco and future emissions from Ontario Hydro's coal-fired generating stations. Inco is required to reduce its emissions by January 1, 1983, to a level which represents a 70 per cent reduction from the late 1960s. The emissions are to be capped at that level, regardless of future production. This can only be accomplished by innovative changes in the manufacturing process. Preliminary work is already under way to accomplish these changes.

A ceiling has been placed on the future emissions from coal-fired stations operated by Ontario Hydro. It will require a 43 per cent reduction from current levels by the year 1990. The level of sulphur dioxide emissions is specified at a ceiling of 260,000 metric tons by the year 1990. The level of sulphur dioxide emissions has a ceiling set at 260,000 metric tons to be achieved by 1990, regardless of increased electric output from the system.

5:50 p.m.

A task force is currently studying further air pollution abatement strategies with the objective of reducing emissions from Inco and Falconbridge nickel mines to minimal levels. In addition, a new technology unit has been estab-

lished by the Ministry of the Environment to keep a close watch on pollution control systems used by our industries and to ensure that they are operating effectively.

These significant steps which have been taken by the government of Ontario indicate a clear commitment to the reduction of emissions of these long-range air pollutants, the benefit of which will be realized mainly in jurisdictions outside provincial boundaries. Ontario expects the same philosophy to prevail in other jurisdictions whose emissions are harming Ontario's environment.

I am sure all members of this House appreciate the immense job to be done as Ontario and our federal government continue to work toward a US-Canada treaty on air pollution. I am convinced that an excellent job has been done by our government to date. Of course, the fight against acid rain is one that requires an ongoing commitment. This is the kind of commitment which the Progressive Conservative government has made in the past and which it rededicated itself to in the speech from the throne by its promise "to continue an aggressive campaign to counter the threat posed by acid rain, and to have controls applied against sources contributing to the problem both in Ontario and from beyond the province's borders."

While preserving our natural resources is an important priority for all Ontarians, it is particularly crucial for areas such as Parry Sound, which depends on the continuing bounty of our forests to support its vigorous logging industry. The importance of this and many other forest industries to Ontario's economy cannot be overestimated. The forest industry employs almost 79,000 people directly. For every job it creates in the industry, two are created outside of it. We export $2.5 billion worth of lumber and paper products every year to the United States, Britain, Europe and South America.

Nationally, the export of forest products contributes more to our balance of trade than farms, fisheries, mines, oil, gas, iron, steel, chemicals and fertilizers all put together. Perhaps most important is the fact that our forests are renewable resources. What they yield is in increasingly short supply in world markets. In responseto this reality, a $1.6-billion reinvestment boom is currently under way in Ontario's forest based industries. Since the world demand for forest products is expected to rise substantially in the years ahead, Ontario's forests will remain one of its most important assets in the future.

Protecting the future health of our forestry sector requires an assured long-term supply of quality commercial timber. This, in turn, requires a comprehensive program of forest management, harvesting and regeneration. As a representative of a riding whose economic interests are closely tied to the forestry sector, I was particularly proud of the PC government's commitment to undertake just such a program, a commitment made in the BILD announcement and reinforced in the speech from the throne. Currently, forest management agreements exist between the Ontario government and major forest producers in the province. Harvesting and regeneration obligations must be met by these companies. Their success in meeting these obligations is subject to review.

To supplement this program, new BILD initiatives have been designed, including a forest improvement program for private forests and woodlots and the acceleration of the forest management agreement program to ensure that all forest management units are harvested and regenerated on a sustained yield basis. In addition, all tree nursery and seedling production facilities in northern Ontario will be expanded, as will our hybrid tree development program. All in all, this is an impressive example of foresight and planning for the future of our forests.

While protecting our supply of lumber in Ontario, vitally and equally important is the need to make the best possible use of these resources from an economic standpoint. In this area, I believe substantial improvements are both possible and necessary. The situation in my riding of Parry Sound is a perfect illustration of the untapped potential that exists in many areas of Ontario in the forestry sector. While the forest industries are vital to the economy of many parts of Parry Sound riding, as yet no local manufacturing base exists to take advantage of this primary industry. The benefits of such development in terms of job creation and economic growth in the region would be enormous, not to mention the benefits to the economy as a whole of exporting more finished products in place of raw materials.

I believe the potential for developing the manufacturing base in areas such as Parry Sound exists within the context of the BILD program, specifically in its commitment to achieving economic growth in expanding markets for Ontario's products. In the weeks and months to come I plan to work with my col-

league the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Grossman) to try to realize this potential and develop it to its fullest in areas like ours.

The use of wood products as an energy source and the development of biomass technology are both commitments of this government and of special importance for ridings such as Parry Sound. Of particular interest are those wood materials currently not used in any processing capacity. Two recent surveys conducted by the Ministry of Natural Resources in the Algonquin region indicate that the use of fuelwood as an alternative heating source is significant in this region. The large supply of forest biomass material presently available from cutover crown land, and the removal and subsequent utilization of this material from both crown and private land, would substantially benefit our forest stands.

The Board of Industrial Leadership and Development has stressed the importance of forest biomass to Ontario's energy future. The Ministry of Energy has set a target date of 1995, by which time at least two per cent of Ontario's primary energy needs will be produced from forest waste or biomass alone. This is the equivalent of 15 million barrels of oil, enough to heat 750,000 homes annually.

Ontario is the recognized world leader in hybrid tree research and development. A ton of hybrid poplar wood chips can produce up to 80 gallons of ethanol or 800 gallons of gasohol for motor vehicle use. Generating energy through these new technologies will foster enormous economic growth in areas of the forestry sector as well as providing new, clean and reasonably priced energy for Ontario. These new initiatives with their employment potential will be welcomed in my area.

The BILD program's commitment to energy conservation, developing alternative energy sources and minimizing our dependence on oil, while working towards self-sufficiency of energy, are now vital priorities for Ontario. Oil price increases have cost Ontario an additional $3 billion a year since 1974. Further increases, which are probably inevitable, will slow down our economic growth, fuel inflation, increase unemployment and make our industries less competitive.

Ontario's energy policy must be based on conservation, especially of petroleum products, and replacing much of our dependence on imported oil with new Ontario-based energy sources. By 1995, the Davis government estimates that Ontario should be able to produce at least 35 per cent of its own energy. In reaching this target, the role of the Ontario government is to provide leadership and funding in high risk and development projects where profitability is yet unproven.

To that end, the Ministry of Energy announced a $165-million energy program in October of last year. One of the initiatives of this program, a $50-million, five-year program to accelerate development of solar energy, can be seen at work in my riding of Parry Sound with the opening of solar homes in Callander and Emsdale. I have personally received inquiries from several local contractors considering the inclusion of solar heating in their developments.

Along with developing new energy sources, the increased use and development of hydroelectric power is essential to our future needs. Ontario's electrical rates are among the lowest in North America and the world.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask the honourable member if he is at a point where he can terminate his remarks.

Mr. Eves: Ontario Hydro requires at least a 25 per cent overcapacity in reserve in case of a surge in power demand or breakdown. Overcapacity also provides the advantages of a guaranteed electrical supply for Ontario to attract industry. Exports of power to the US by Hydro has earned $7 million—

Mr. Speaker: I would direct the member's attention to the clock.

Mr. Eves: Thank you.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, pursuant to standing order 13, I would like to indicate to the members of the House the business for the rest of this week and next week.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Wells: We have done it this way for five or six years.

An hon. member: Reluctantly.

Hon. Mr. Wells: The member has never heard us say we didn't want to do it. As a matter of fact, we believe in following the standing orders.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It may be that the member for Essex South has never been here before at this time.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, tomorrow morning and Monday afternoon we will continue the throne speech debate. On Tuesday, May 12, we will continue the throne speech

debate in the afternoon. In the evening we will have the windup speakers for each party on the throne speech debate with any votes on the no-confidence motions, if necessary.

On Thursday, May 14, in the afternoon we begin our private members' ballot items. Ballot items 1 and 2, standing in the names of Mr. Havrot and Mr. Spensieri, will be considered by the House. In the evening the House will deal with the eighth report of the select committee on the Ombudsman on a motion for adoption.

On Friday, May 15, we will consider legislation. The House will be considering Bill 7, The human rights amendment bill.

The House recessed at 6:01 p.m.

CONTENTS

Thursday May 7, 1981

Statements by the ministry

Pope, Hon. A. W., Minister of Natural Resources:
Forest fires 427

Snow, Hon. J. W., Minister of Transportation and Communications:
Road construction 427

Oral questions

Ashe, Hon. G. L., Minister of Revenue:
Aid to pensioners, Mr. R. F. Johnston, Mr. Breithaupt 435

Bennett, Hon. C. F., Minister of Housing:
Housing, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ruprecht 431

Birch, Hon. M., Provincial Secretary for Social Development:
Nursing applications, Mr. Smith, Mr. O'Neil 428
University admission, Mr. Grande 439

Davis, Hon. W. G., Premier:
Interest rates, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Sargent 432

Drea, Hon. F., Minister of Community and Social Services:
Champlain School, Mr. Boudria 436

McMurtry, Hon. R. R., Attorney General and Solicitor General:
Hotel inspection, Mr. Elston, Ms. Copps 434

Norton, Hon. K. C., Minister of the Environment:
Train derailment, Mr. Gillies 435
Keating Channel dredging, Mr. Charlton 436

Pope, Hon. A. W., Minister of Natural Resources:
Grants to pulp and paper companies, Mr. Smith, Mr. Cassidy 429

Timbrell, Hon. D. R., Minister of Health:
Mental health patients, Mr. Ruprecht 437

Presentation of cookbooks, point of privilege, Ms. Copps 439

Comments by minister, point of order, Mr. Foulds, Mr. Snow 439

Question period, point of order, Mr. Roy, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Sargent, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Martel, Mr. Mancini. 440

Notice of dissatisfaction, Mr. Speaker. 441

Motion

Report of the select committee on the Ombudsman, Mr. Wells; agreed to. 441

First readings

Highway Traffic Amendment Act, Bill 52, Mr. Snow. 441
Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act, Bill 53, Mr. Snow. 442
Public Commercial Vehicles Amendment Act, Bill 54, Mr. Snow. 442
Motorized Snow Vehicles Amendment Act, Bill 55, Mr. Snow. 443
Good Samaritan Act, Bill 56, Mr. Haggerty. 443
Nonunionized Workers Protection Act, Mr. Haggerty. 443
Labour Relations Amendment Act, Mr. Haggerty. 443

Answers to questions on Notice Paper, Mr. Wells. 443

Throne speech debate

Mr. Andrewes. 444
Mr. Sargent. 447
Mr. Foulds. 452
Mr. Eves. 462

Business of the House, Mr. Wells. 465

Recess. 466

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Andrewes, P. W. (Lincoln PC)
Ashe, Hon. G. L.; Minister of Revenue (Durham West PC)
Bennett, Hon. C. F.; Minister of Housing (Ottawa South PC)
Birch, Hon. M.; Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Scarborough East PC)
Boudria, D. (Prescott-Russell L)
Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
Breithaupt, J. R. (Kitchener L)
Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
Copps, S. M. (Hamilton Centre L)
Cousens, D.; Acting Speaker (York Centre PC)
Cureatz, S. L.; Deputy Speaker (Durham East PC)
Davis, Hon. W. G.; Premier (Brampton PC)
Drea, Hon. F; Minister of Community and Social Services (Scarborough Centre PC)
Eaton, R. G. (Middlesex PC)
Elston, M. J. (Huron-Bruce L)
Eves, E. L. (Parry Sound PC)
Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)
Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)
Haggerty, R. (Erie L)
Havrot, E. M. (Timiskaming PC)
Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
Kolyn, A. (Lakeshore PC)
Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)
Mancini, R. (Essex South L)
Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
McMurtry, Hon. R. R.; Attorney General and Solicitor General (Eglinton PC)
Norton, Hon. K. C.; Minister of the Environment (Kingston and the Islands PC)
O'Neil, H. P. (Quinte L)
Peterson, D. R. (London Centre L)
Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)
Pope, Hon. A. W.; Minister of Natural Resources (Cochrane South PC)
Reid, T. P. (Rainy River L-Lab.)
Renwick, J. A. (Riverdale NDP)
Riddell, J. K. (Huron-Middlesex L)
Roy, A. J. (Ottawa East L)
Ruprecht, T. (Parkdale L)
Sargent, E. C. (Grey-Bruce L)
Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea PC)
Smith, S. L. (Hamilton West L)
Snow, Hon. J. W.; Minister of Transportation and Communications (Oakville PC)
Sweeney, J. (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
Timbrell, Hon. D. R.; Minister of Health (Don Mills PC)
Turner, Hon. J. M.; Speaker (Peterborough PC)
Welch, Hon. R. S.; Minister of Energy (Brock PC)
Wells, Hon. T. L.; Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Scarborough North PC)
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)

Ontario

No. 14

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



First Session, Thirty-Second Parliament
Thursday, May 7, 1981
Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

Hansard subscription price is $15.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Central Purchasing Service, Print Procurement Section, Ministry of Government Services, 8th Floor, Ferguson Block, Parliament Buildings, Toronto M7A 1N3. Phone (416) 965-2238.

Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Thursday, May 7, 1981

The House resumed at 8:01 p.m.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE
(continued)

The Deputy Speaker: We will continue the debate. The member for Parry Sound.

Mr. Eves: Ontario Hydro has earned $700 million in the last five years by selling electricity. This is one source of energy we have in abundance without relying on other provinces or nations. The development of local sources of hydroelectric power has potential benefits for several areas in Parry Sound riding.

Ontario Hydro provides a low-cost, reliable source of power and has been a powerful ingredient in enhancing jobs and income creation in Ontario. Hydro alone employs 28,000 people, and its capital construction program of approximately $2 billion per annum is directly responsible for thousands of jobs in the construction and supply industries.

Investment in hydraulic and nuclear generating stations gives us a large source of energy while leading the world in the performance of large-scale, safe reactors and heavy water extraction technology.

Bruce and other nuclear reactors also provide Ontario's entrée to the hydrogen era. Hydrogen is produced from electricity and can substitute for fossil fuels in a multitude of transportation and industrial applications. Of course, a mix of energy sources—nuclear, solar, wind, electrical, hydrogen, propane, natural gas and alcohol—is ultimately necessary if Ontario is to meet its further needs while minimizing our dependence on foreign oil.

Our government is committed to developing energy sources to provide this mix. Above all, simplistic solutions that can only damage our energy situation and perhaps even our economy must be avoided, solutions such as that proposed by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Smith) on March 14. At that time he suggested a joint venture between this province and a Japanese or European auto maker to take over Chrysler and develop a dual-fuel car. These cars were to be designed to run on methanol, produced in plants to be set up across Ontario.

This proposal flew in the face of his often-voiced objections to foreign firms gaining a greater foothold in our economy. As for methanol, recent studies suggest there are still many unsolved problems to be tackled before it can be used in our climate.

I would be interested in seeing the figures on how much it would cost Ontario's taxpayers to put this grandiose scheme into effect at present, given that all the problems of methanol would need to be solved, plants would have to be built and someone would have to assume Chrysler's debt.

Also contained in the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program were initiatives designed to stimulate tourism. The tourist sector, in terms of its contribution to the gross provincial product, has become Ontario's second largest industry. It is Parry Sound riding's largest.

In 1979, total tourism-related expenditures in Ontario were estimated at $6.6 billion. To maintain and improve Ontario's position in the tourist industry, we will extend the tourism redevelopment incentive program through 1984. This program provides loans for the expansion and upgrading of tourist facilities and, since 1979, has approved $28 million worth of loans to the tourist sector.

In addition, a province-wide grading system for tourist accommodations will be operating by early 1982, providing an incentive for operations to upgrade their facilities and the development of large, world-class tourist resorts will be encouraged, particularly in the more northerly regions of Ontario.

Recognizing the importance of our boating facilities to the tourism industry, we will also provide financial assistance to marina operators, to municipalities for the improvement, expansion and construction of docking and marina services, and ancillary onshore facilities.

A Sail Ontario program will be introduced to improve the marking and clearing of channels and the safety and routing of sailboats on the Great Lakes. On a larger scale, planned improvements of about $10 million each year for Ontario's harbours and small ports will provide an added incentive for tourists to enjoy our waterways.

As well as expanding the economic potential of the Great Lakes in terms of transporting bulk commodities, these innovative programs are of particular interest to the town of Parry Sound, where several active groups and persons are pursuing the development of beach, marina and waterfront facilities for one of the best natural harbours on the Great Lakes.

Directly related to tourism is the strengthening of sport and commercial fisheries which could have several beneficial results in my riding. Last year the province spent $2 million to improve sport-fish stock, and the Ministry of Natural Resources indicates that these efforts are to be substantially increased in our area this year. Having discussed this situation with a number of tourist-resort operators, I am convinced that substantial strides must be taken in this program. It is estimated that 1,000 tourists in our area generate $99,000 worth of income and create five man-years of employment.

The past efforts and successes of this government in revitalizing sport fisheries in lakes Erie and St. Clair, and more recently in Lake Ontario, provide ample proof of our commitment to improving this industry. I am determined to see the continued success of this effort in Parry Sound riding. Provided that a reasonable agreement can be reached between advocates of increased sport fishing and the commercial fisherman, increased stocking can benefit all parties concerned. These fishery efforts will improve the economic and environmental prospects of the Parry Sound riding.

Equally important to the economic development throughout rural Ontario are agriculture and road development. My constituents are concerned over high interest rates, the preservation and maintenance of agricultural land and the need for better and increased tax incentives to provide assistance and better returns for our farming community.

I know these concerns are shared by all Ontarians. For that reason I am pleased to see the commitment made by this government in the speech from the throne to the agricultural sector and to the continued development of highways and secondary roads so vital to rural communities.

Being a member of the northern Ontario community, an area noted for its great natural beauty, means Parry Sound riding and areas like it must be constantly aware of the need to protect the environment when the economic base of the region is expanded and diversified. But diversity is unquestionably a vital part of economic growth. Because of this we are especially supportive of the development of new technologies as well as of the expansion of Ontario's existing economic situation and strengths.

Because high-technology research centres and industries can be developed without disrupting a clean, healthy environment, they are particularly attractive to areas like ours which need diversity without endangering the natural beauty and the resources of the region. This is particularly true since our environment supports a vigorous tourist industry.

Shaw-Almex Industries Limited, which produces vulcanizing equipment just outside of Parry Sound, is an excellent example of the ability of high-technology industries to blend into communities without disrupting the natural balance in the region. This firm produces an innovative product that is exported worldwide. It is based in a northern Ontario community with relative proximity to the markets of southern Ontario.

The establishment of community development corporations outlined in the BILD program, together with financial input and expertise of the business community, could prove to be the perfect vehicle for matching new industries with areas of the province needing to diversify their economic base. These new initiatives will be heartily welcomed in my area, particularly because of the vast potential they hold for stimulating employment in the riding.

This is an important concern for Parry Sound riding, especially given the fact that over the past few years many of our young people have been moving out of the area to find jobs in their chosen occupations. New opportunities through technological innovation and local initiative, coupled with the advanced technical education referred to in the speech from the throne, will provide our youth with the reality of being able to choose to live and work in their own community.

Not to be forgotten in terms of employment opportunities are the new government policies in the area of native affairs. These include a career development plan for native people in northern Ontario that will provide opportunities for training and permanent employment in the private sector as well as in the field operations of the Ministry of Natural Resources. Of course, creating and promoting new high technology industries will benefit not only the regions in which these industries locate, but the entire province and its economy. Research and

development in new areas will place Ontario in the forefront of modern technology and world markets, as well as creating new opportunities for development and employment in many areas of the province.

8:10 p.m.

Up to this point I have touched on many of the BILD initiatives, which were highlighted in the speech from the throne, and which will develop the enormous economic potential of many regions in this province, particularly those areas which, like Parry Sound, are rich in natural resources and untapped wealth. But I would be remiss if, before concluding, I did not mention another aspect of the government's program which I feel is vitally important to our continued strength as a province.

In the speech from the throne, the government reaffirmed its long-standing commitment to providing strong support for social service programs. The past 10 years have seen the construction of numerous facilities for senior citizens throughout our riding. In the years to come, services for senior citizens will be improved and expanded, homes for the aged will be upgraded and continuing emphasis will be placed on community living for elderly and disabled persons, enabling them to live in their own homes. As well, new programs will be created for the handicapped in our province in this International Year of Disabled Persons, and a fresh look will be taken at our mental health programs.

In short, the government will continue to reflect its concern for those in need and will maintain the importance of traditional values and family life as a mainstay of its policies. This is a concern which each of us in government shares.

In the short time that I have been a member of the government party, I have had the opportunity to work and speak with many of my colleagues on the back benches. Their dedication and enthusiasm, combined with the co-operation and guidance of our long-standing members, denies the opposition's assertion that this government is arrogant.

I can assure the members opposite that we are all individuals over here, with varied interests and attitudes, but we are united in our concern for the wellbeing of Ontarians, for the growth and prosperity of small business, for the need to let private enterprise operate without the shackles of overregulation and for the preservation of our environment. We are a government that cares, and our concern will continue to be voiced in our programs.

We in Ontario have good reason to be proud of our province. Our economy is strong and we have tremendous potential inherent in our human and natural resources. In the speech from the throne, the Ontario government has dedicated itself to preserving and building on our province's strengths and securing the continued wellbeing of our citizens in the years to come. I am proud to be a part of that government, and to be able to represent the riding of Parry Sound.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to address the Legislative Assembly of Ontario on the occasion of the throne speech debate. I start by congratulating you on your ascension to the Speaker's chair with all the duties and responsibilities it entails.

Next, I congratulate all the members, those newly elected and those who are returning for another term. I can appreciate now the work that goes into a campaign. I was a new politician and had never engaged in a political campaign before, except as an assistant to others who had visions of being elected to office. I can now appreciate the amount of work that goes into a political campaign by those who run the campaign and the individuals in the riding who make it a success. I also extend my thanks to those people as well.

It has also come to my attention that, by and large, the democratic process, especially in our riding of Huron-Bruce, is one that has been exercised well and fully. I had the privilege of running against two fine gentlemen and two other party organizations, who worked hard and long hours. The people of Huron-Bruce were well served by a very clean and well-thought-out campaign. Again, I would like to thank the people of Huron-Bruce for the support they showed publicly by electing me as their representative to this House for Huron-Bruce.

I wish to continue by saying a few words in relation to the former member for Huron-Bruce, Mr. Murray Gaunt. Our riding of Huron-Bruce was represented by Mr. Gaunt for almost two decades, Mr. Gaunt having assumed the seat in 1962 in a by-election. He went on from there to sit in the House until he retired just before the last election.

Mr. Gaunt was one of the most able members ever to serve in the Legislature. He was hard-working, dedicated and untiring in his efforts to uphold the rights of the constituents of Huron-Bruce. He became known for his booming laughter, which was well known to all members of the Legislature and which became a hallmark. He sat in this House for almost two

decades, and those were decades that brought on the most eventful and sweeping changes in government.

We have seen a wide-ranging increase in government activity in the lives of the people of Ontario, and Mr. Gaunt was always on guard to make sure that his constituents were well served and not being swept away by that increased activity. He stood with his constituents at the board level. He went with them to the various licensing agencies, and he protected their interests no matter what their problems.

He was resolute in his representation of his constituents. He was just as resolute when it came time to do his committee work, and he worked hard for constituents throughout Ontario. Mr. Gaunt's untiring efforts and his unselfish dedication in serving his constituents and the province are to be lauded by all, and serve as an example to all members of the House and in particular to the new members here.

Moreover, he remained a gentleman in his dealings with this Legislature and became close friends with very many people who sat opposite as well as those sitting on this side of the House. I think the way he conducted the political affairs in his career is certainly the way we should try to continue to carry them out.

It is with pleasure that I pay tribute to the former member for Huron-Bruce, and it is with pride that I likewise commit myself to represent the constituents of Huron-Bruce to the very best of my ability, to share with them their problems, to find resolutions to their difficulties, and to stand with them when they find it difficult to find solutions by themselves.

I make this commitment, because I find that Huron-Bruce is one of the most impressive parts of Ontario in which to live. The pastoral lands that are nestled against the shore of Lake Huron hide the bustle of the activities that make this riding one of the most productive parts of Ontario. It contains parts of two counties: Bruce county, with a population of approximately 58,000 people, and Huron county, with a population of approximately 57,000 people.

Both counties are equally rich in the natural resources from which their residents have forged their livelihoods, but the riding is more than just a pastoral setting that produces a great number of agricultural products. It has a wide range of modern small businesses which have been largely established by the local initiative of many of the pioneers and resident individuals there.

For example, I can point to businesses such as the Western Foundry Company, which operates in Wingham. It has new electric blast furnaces capable of producing mouldings for many modern industries and in particular has gone on to produce many components for the automobile industry.

I take pride in the fact that there is a brush and broom factory in Port Elgin which makes most of the brushes and brooms we buy from very many suppliers. I also must point out that this particular brush and broom factory has as one of its employees the only person in Canada who is capable of making the push brooms that are used in curling and are now becoming very popular.

We also have industries that have committed themselves to serving the agricultural industry. In relation to those, I wish to point out that many welding and fabricating industries have grown up to serve the local agricultural industry.

8:20 p.m.

I must also point out that the riding has particularly benefited from a large and vital tourist industry. The beaches of the shore of Lake Huron provide a very good recreational site for many of the visitors who come to the area from the cities, especially from the Kitchener-Waterloo, Toronto and London areas.

At the same time, the riding offers many opportunties for those people who wish to expand their own businesses in the area. For instance, we have the Bruce nuclear power development, which can provide adequate resources in terms of energy production for the development of industry by making it profitable for entrepreneurs to set up new manufacturing businesses in the riding.

I must also remark that in the near future the Bruce nuclear power development will, as mentioned in the BILD program, provide some energy for a new Bruce agripark, which will house new agricultural production facilities for our area. This concept of an agripark has been developed largely because of the local initiative of some of the individuals in the riding who have only recently received tacit support from the government to allow them to continue with their plans.

I trust and hope this project can go forward and will help our area to diversify, but as yet we have not seen anything tangible in relation to government support of this particular project. I would like to see it move ahead, and I would be pleased if we could get on with the required legislation so the energy is made available and this project can become feasible.

Although in Huron-Bruce we have many other sorts of industry, by and large we are an agricultural area. Agriculture has been the number one industry of Huron county and it is almost number one in Bruce county.

Along with the agricultural industry, appropriately a wide range of small businesses has developed to serve the needs of the riding. By and large, these small businesses survive because of the vitality of the local agricultural market, although there are some that export their products not only out of the riding but also out of Ontario and Canada.

In this respect, I wish to mention at least two of these small businesses. One is Fritz Concrete at Chepstow, which is in the market of selling concrete slab products for farm and agricultural buildings, and another is Helm Welding Limited in Lucknow, which is an exporter of snowblowers and other farm equipment.

The growth of the agribusiness community in Huron-Bruce has taken place largely as a result of strong initiative on the part of the people of my riding. From the time of the pioneers who first walked into the bush to clear land, to the present time when the farming community forges on to become ever more efficient producers of food for Canada, individuals have held their futures in their own hands and have not only survived but also expanded their local businesses and institutions.

It is in this light that the people of Huron-Bruce are ever vigilant to organize against the erosion of their economic, social and political fabric.

The evidence of this is the strong reliance the people in my riding have on their municipal governments. They go to them first and foremost to meet the needs that they feel arise. Strong interest in local politics, appropriately displayed in the active meetings of both municipal councils and county councils, acts as evidence of this interest in local institutions throughout the riding.

If the local government and business of the area is strong, it is because of the strong, vibrant and independent press that has sprung up all over the riding. In my riding, approximately 14 newspapers are published weekly and provide the residents of the area with the information they need to keep abreast of the happenings in the riding.

At the same time, again as a result of strong local initiative by one particular resident of the riding, Mr. Doc Cruikshank, who was a resident of Wingham and who in the 1920s took up the challenge of radio communication, the riding of Huron-Bruce is fortunate to be served by CKNX radio and TV stations. The FM and AM radio stations, together with locally produced television programming, provide Huron-Bruce with one of the most thorough local communication networks in Ontario with which to participate in the democratic process.

Although I have spoken at length about the vitality of the area, I found recently, just prior to and during the election, that our agribusiness community in Huron-Bruce has been stymied by high input costs and high interest costs and, by and large, they have received very little help.

I have here numerous letters from constituents of mine which plead for assistance from this government, and we have received no help or assistance whatsoever from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. There are individuals who have written to me, requesting that some assistance be given to them along the lines that it has been given to the farmers of Quebec, that some programs be instituted along the lines of those that have been instituted by other provinces to help deal with the high interest costs. But our appeals, in the form of requests for a debate and requests for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to forge ahead to help our people, have gone unheeded.

I might point out that, in the speech from the throne, only three paragraphs on pages eight and nine refer to agriculture, and they do not deal specifically with the problem areas we are concerned with. They do not mention the problems of the beef producers or the pork producers. They do make one reference to the concern of the government over the interest rate increases, but that is as far as it goes. There are no plans in this throne speech to help the agricultural business in my community.

That is too bad, because the letters I have just held up come mostly from farmers who should be expanding their operations and not from those who should be closing down. They are people in their late 20s, their early 30s and their early 40s. These are the people who provide the vitality of any industry and not only in the agricultural industry.

I find it very difficult to understand why, in this age of enlightened politics, there cannot be something done to aid those people who are my constituents and, indeed, many of whom are my friends and associates from school days and so on.

Mr. Piché: Our government is going to help.

Mr. Elston: Your government has done nothing.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, I hear one member speaking about federal money and the whole works. I understand that this government refused to take equalization payments of some $500 million before the election. They refused to use that. If they had really been concerned, they could have taken that money. If they did not want to put it into the industry segment, into the manufacturing segment, they could have taken that money from the federal government and put all of it into agriculture. There was nothing put into agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: You had better read some background before you talk about what you don't know.

Mr. Riddell: Did you read the headlines in the Globe this morning?

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Mr. Elston has the floor.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, I have pride in the ability of the residents of Huron-Bruce to weather the storm. I have pride in the people of Ontario. However, I think it will take some concerted action on the part of this government to make sure that we do not slide any lower on the list, the list we were speaking of earlier, which was published in the Globe and Mail today.

8:30 p.m.

I would like to mention a couple of words about the BILD program. The BILD program largely forms the basis of the throne speech. During the election in our riding, we dealt at some length with what it was going to do for Ontario. We discovered that the $750 million this government has committed over the next five years was made up mostly of money that had already been committed and that there was not going to be much new money available in the event.

The government has taken credit for providing a program of some $1.5 billion in size, when in fact it is contributing only $750 million. It seems to me it has tried to deceive the people of Ontario about the commitment it has made to the industrial development of the province.

Further, we find there really is no overall strategy for Ontario. Bits and pieces are to be dispersed around the communities of Ontario, but there is nothing that tells us how the industrial development of Ontario will take place. There is nothing in the BILD program that tells us how the agricultural industry is going to develop in the province. There are just a few slight references to that industry, and I find that unacceptable in an area where agriculture forms a vital part of our industry.

My constituents are concerned about our agricultural business. Some of them are going out of business, while in other provinces, notably Quebec, farmers are being sustained by government assistance. They fear we are going to lose the markets we have held for so long and for which we have produced cheap and high-quality foodstuffs. The farmers in Huron-Bruce are very productive and efficient people for the most part and do not deserve to be left in the lurch.

My riding has always been active in the recreational business in the Great Lakes area and in the province generally. We have championship sports teams. Just recently, the Mildmay juvenile hockey club became all-Ontario juvenile hockey champions. I might mention that they have applied for some assistance from Wintario for a project and have been put on a list for future consideration.

To conclude, I want to say again that it is a privilege to represent the fine people of Huron-Bruce in the Legislature. I will do what I can to support them. There are some fine organizations that require some support, including the Winghan and district association for the mentally retarded, which is now trying to establish a new facility to replace the existing one, which is overcrowded by those already receiving the benefits of the volunteer labour of members of that association.

I also want to mention the Town and Country Homemakers in the county of Huron, who perform housekeeping chores for those who are convalescing at home and areunable to help themselves, and in this way are supporting the health system in Ontario. They provide a valuable service and are always in need of funds. I suggest that the Minister of Health should continue to fund the group to help it carry out the services it offers to the citizens of my riding.

I also wish to point out the work of an organization in the town of Kincardine that is very busy now trying to establish long-overdue chronic care beds for the senior citizens of the area. Kincardine has a population of approximately 6,000 people, and any of the elder statesmen of the town must now go either to a home in Lucknow, which is 15 miles or 20 miles away, or to a home in Southampton, which is another 30 miles, or to one in Walkerton.

There is no place in Kincardine that provides the elder statesmen of the town with a place to

retire in comfort. I support that group in its efforts to obtain the necessary approvals from the ministries so it can provide that very necessary institution for the people of the town of Kincardine.

I will continue to support such groups in their efforts to obtain the assistance and support for their individual residents. To projects of these types I will lend my full weight and support and make whatever contribution I can to help them attain their goals.

It has been a pleasure to address the House in the throne speech debate, and I look forward to continuing.

Mr. Cooke: First of all, I want to congratulate the Deputy Speaker on his appointment and I would ask you, sir, to pass on my congratulations to the new Speaker as well. I wish you, for your sake as well as ours, all the success in the world as Deputy Speaker.

I also want to congratulate the new member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye), but at the same time I want to express my disappointment at the defeat of my colleague Ted Bounsall. I believe Ted Bounsall served in this Legislature for 10 years with distinction. He worked very hard. Probably the issue that most of us remember Ted for most is the issue of equal pay for work of equal value. It is an issue this party believes in very strongly, and I guarantee that with or without Ted Bounsall we will continue to carry on that fight in the Legislature.

Further, I should indicate to the member for Windsor-Sandwich that I hope he wins his grievance arbitration with CBC, because I have a feeling that in four years Ted Bounsall will be back and he will be unemployed.

I want to make a few comments about the election and then I want to go into a couple of items regarding the auto industry as well as the food processing industry.

During the election campaign I visited about 8,000 homes in my riding and, while my biggest disappointment was the defeats our party experienced, I was also disappointed by the turnout that was experienced in this province—about 50 per cent. In my riding a traditional turnout is between 66 per cent and 70 per cent, and the turnout dropped to 56 per cent.

I think that says something very clearly to this government, to all of us as members of this Legislature and to all of us as politicians. There is a lot of alienation and cynicism out there about politicians and about politics, and we have a job to do to create confidence in our process to make sure that democracy lives and continues to be healthy in this province.

One of the things that added to this cynicism in the last election was very clearly the types of promises this government made, the attempts to buy votes rather than sell them on their record. I suggest the record was not something they could get votes on, and that is why they decided to go across this province with their $1.5-billion BILD program. It is 50 per cent money from the feds and another portion of the money from private enterprise that we will probably never see.

I think also the attempt that was made by the government for the senior citizen vote was despicable. There was the $500 grant in the fall and then the week before the election was called every senior citizen in this province who receives the old age pension got a nice shiny booklet from this government—with 27 cents worth of stamps on it—reminding them what a great government they have in this province. It had a picture of the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mrs. Birch) and a picture of the Premier (Mr. Davis) on it, and was just simply to remind them of the services they get. I will say that this booklet did not help some of the constituents I met. There were three in particular I met during the election who I remember very clearly.

8:40 p.m.

There was one individual, an 85-year old man, who lived on Clemenceau Street in my riding. I went into his home and I was rather shocked, Mr. Speaker, at the dirt in the home and the lack of food. The inability of this individual to take care of himself was obvious.

I talked to him about alternatives and where he may look to find better lodging. We talked about rest and lodging homes and nursing homes. I found out that he qualified for an extended care certificate under the Ontario health insurance plan. He had his name in at nursing homes in Windsor and there was a one-year waiting list.

This 85-year old man, who had immigrated to this country, worked hard all his life at Chrysler and paid taxes all his life, now lives in a state of poverty, does not eat well and will probably—unless he gets some type of care and there is not that opportunity right now—end up dying in that home because of lack of care and lack of planning. The member for Cochrane North can shake his head and he can make jokes but maybe he should—

Mr. Piché: No, I do not make jokes. What you say is unfair.

Mr. Cooke: It is not unfair. If the member for Cochrane North would go talk to this individual and see some of the people in his riding, who I am sure also exist, maybe he would find out that the senior citizens in this province are getting a raw deal and have had a raw deal for many years under this government.

There is also a 78-year old woman on Grand Boulevard. I went to her house and she asked me to come in. I talked to her for a while and she started crying. The reason she started crying is because she needed eye glasses. She did not have the money to buy the eye glasses and the only way to get funding for them was to go to the welfare office. This individual had never applied for welfare and was determined not to have to go that route. Instead, she could not read her newspaper, could not read magazines, and could not read books because she did not have proper eye glasses.

Finally, there was another couple—and this is a serious problem right across this province. They both received old age pension and he received a Ford pension. Unfortunately, his health deteriorated and he had to go into a rest and lodging home. Because this province does not have regulation of rest and lodging homes and because this province does not have funding of rest and lodging homes, these people did not qualify for welfare assistance because he had a Ford pension. He went in and had to pay $800 a month and she was left with the old age pension and that is it. The result was she could not keep up her home. She could not pay the property taxes and eat well at the same time and was faced with the posibility of having to sell her home.

These incidents are not isolated. They occur all across the province. They occur all across my riding. I feel extremely strongly about rest and lodging homes and the regulation and funding under the Ontario health insurance program. I also feel very strongly that rest and lodging homes, as well as nursing homes, must be brought under public control. They must no longer be run for profit.

The other day my colleague from Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) indicated in his speech that he thought it was not a coincidence that the only types of health care facilities that are run for a profit are the health care facilities used by the elderly and the handicapped. These are the same people about whom we make all sorts of comments and we say that we are doing the best we can.

We have the International Year of Disabled Persons. We put out brochures for senior citizens. We say that they have built our community, they have built our province, but when the bottom line is drawn the fact of the matter is we do not take very good care of those people and we do not help them very much. By putting them in nursing homes that are run strictly for profit, and where care is secondary, we again show very clearly that we do not care as much and the policies and statements of the government are basically rhetoric.

I would judge the government by its record. Anyone can say they care. We often hear the Premier saying that the New Democratic Party does not have any kind of monopoly on caring. I would judge the government by its record and I believe strongly its record on caring for the elderly and the handicapped in this province is not a good record at all.

I want to spend a few minutes talking about the automobile industry and I want to begin by quoting from the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development document as I did the other day in question period. The one statement in the BILD document referring to the automobile industry says the following, "There is good cause to believe that the worst is past."

I am going to review some statistics, some of which I have used before in question period, but which I want to get on the record again tonight.

The latest statistics show the world auto trade deficit for Canada is $2,997 billion. The deficit with the United States is $2 billion and the deficit with Japan is climbing; it is up 87 per cent in 1980 over 1979 and has now achieved $854 million. The only deficits that have come down are the world deficit and the US deficit. That is for one reason only—because of the recession in the United States.

Clearly, the structural problems in the automobile industry continue to exist in this province and country. There is nothing in the BILD program, nothing coming from my friend from Essex South, nothing from his party and nothing from the federal Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gray), nothing at all to correct the structural problems in the automobile industry.

Production at Ford Motor Company up until April 18, 1981, is down 23 per cent from 1980, and 1980 was no record year. Chrysler is down 22 per cent. General Motors is up 0.6 per cent. That is the one company where production is up—0.6 per cent. The total, of course, is down nearly 10 per cent.

Mr. Eakins: You are down. How many per cent are you down?

Mr. Cooke: Is the honourable member running for leadership too, or is that a rumour I heard?

Mr. Mancini: You kept those birds in office one year longer than you had to, so don't tell us any different.

Mr. Cooke: One of these days we may take the honourable member as seriously as he takes himself, but I doubt it.

The loss figures for Ford Motor Company for the first quarter of this year are over $400 million. The loss figures for Chrysler are around $200 million. Now the interest rates have gone to another all-time high. The consumer loan rate yesterday was 23 per cent. I assume now, after today's increase, we are talking about 24 or 25 per cent for consumer loans for anyone who wants to go out to purchase a car.

The report produced by the Treasurer or his ministry and released earlier this year to the select committee on plant shutdowns and employee adjustment really paints a very difficult picture ahead for the automobile industry.

I want to point out to the one cabinet minister here this evening that, while the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Grossman) may say that is a worst-scenario case study, the fact of the matter is most of the information in the Treasury study is clearly statistical and the scenario it paints comes from those statistics.

What I want to do for the next few minutes is quote some of those statistics and prove to the House and maybe even to the government—although I suspect it knows the problem but just does not know how to deal with it—that the problems in the automobile industry are structural, are serious, are still with us and are going to be with us unless there is significant and substantial government intervention.

For example, on page six of the report it says: "Contrary to popular belief, the North American automakers are not likely to close the product gap until 1982 to 1985. In the short term, General Motors, Ford and Chrysler will rely on sales of conventional cars and light trucks, and hence their earning generation potential appears severely impaired, as these models have sold at less than half capacity since the spring of 1979.

"Some illusions: By 1982 model year, less than half of the car assembly plants in north America will have been converted to lightweight front-wheel-drive, four-cylinder-engine, car production. Chrysler, which prides itself as being the small front-wheel-drive company, must sell 600,000 to 700,000 large conventional cars in the 1981 model year to generate cash for debt service and launch costs on the K-car. Ford and General Motors will not be able to tool up for an appropriate mix of four-cylinder engines until near 1985."

8:50 p.m.

Page 12 of the report: "Ford North America is expected to have severe internal cash flow problems over the mid-term which may well require further reduction in capital commitments, greater outsourcing, even to the extent of joint production, and reduced operation. Ford North America is on the way to becoming a much smaller company with serious implications for its commitments in Canada."

That is not a scenario. That is happening to the Ford Motor Company now. The $400-million loss announced last week indicates there is a capital shortage, there is a cash flow problem and Ford Motor Company is going to have to cut back on its capital commitments in North America which does have severe implications for Ontario.

Chrysler: It is obvious that in order to retool their van plant in Windsor and their car plant in Windsor—in order to have the van wagons and the small cars they want to produce in 1983—the only way they can do that is to generate new capital. They cannot do that with the loan guarantees from the American and Canadian governments alone.

The fact is unless profits are turned on the larger cars, that capital will not be generated and the retooling of the plants in Windsor will not take place. The report on page 13 confirms that. It says:

"Expansion at Trenton, in Mexico and Syracuse will require substantial commitments of capital which the operating plant estimates to be between $1 billion and $2 billion over the next two years. Chrysler will have to generate at least $500 million in net earnings over the next year to keep this investment on track since outside guaranteed debt is now limited to $900 million." It is now lower than that since they have taken more of the American loan guarantees.

"Chrysler last reported a comparable level of profit in 1976 when large cars could be sold in large numbers and when Chrysler's market share amongst sales of domestically-built cars was 13.4 per cent as compared with the 9.7 per cent in the third quarter of 1980. Any sales difficulties with the K and L cars will likely lead to a burnup of the remaining secured debt."

The fact is that Chrysler has not turned a

profit yet. They continue to lose money—hundreds of millions of dollars—and they are not going to have the capital. With the interest rates, thanks to our federal Liberal friends and thanks to Mr. Reagan, there will not be a demand for North American-built cars or Japanese cars. The capital will not be developed and we cannot look forward to those plants in Windsor being retooled unless there is a dramatic turnaround in the market for cars.

Therefore, the short term for Chrysler is limited to production at its present facilities of cars and vans, and in the long term, unless things turn around dramatically, those plants will not be retooled. We are going to continue to have long-term severe unemployment problems in my home town of Windsor, as well as at Ajax and Etobicoke where Chrysler also has plants.

Ford, as I have already said, is having problems with cash flow and that also indicates problems with their retooling because of the capital requirements. In fact, while there is some good news in Windsor right now that the casting plant will be opening, the Ford Motor Company itself indicates that the two V-8 engine plants we have in Windsor have a very limited life and will be closed at best within the next two years. In my opinion it probably will be sooner than that.

Page 23 comments about General Motors: "In General Motors' case commitments to Canada have been virtually limited to the $1.5-billion Windsor transaxle plant. This represents about 60 per cent of General Motors Canada's announced 1979-83 capital program and also signifies what must be interpreted to be a move by General Motors to minimize its dependence on Canadian parts producers and hence maximize its opportunities for purchasing parts from more attractive markets offshore, including the sophisticated Japanese market.

Before the cash crisis, General Motors manufactured 15 different transmissions over the mid-term. This has been reduced to two in an effort to conserve cash. General Motors, Windsor, has been given the order for one of these transmissions and its large production volume will go far towards satisfying what are virtually static Canadian value added—CVA—requirements under the auto pact. Since they are going to be producing the inhouse parts in Windsor, that means they will no longer need to source those parts from the independent parts suppliers. So, while there may be jobs at General Motors, the implications of General Motors' decision for the auto parts sector are serious.

Engine production in Canada is very crucial. The report, on page 23, states: "The net effect is that Canada is likely to be cut out of all small engine developments in the mid-term, not only by General Motors, but by other North American auto makers as well. Four-cylinder capacity has virtually been committed worldwide until 1985 and commitments for mini-engines—two-cylinder or three-cylinder, electric—are now being planned in preparation for even greater shifts to fuel efficiency."

That says very clearly that the auto makers have made their decisions. We are not getting the small engine production, and we are not getting the diesel engine production. Those are not worstcase scenarios, those are facts. How the Minister of Industry and Tourism and the Premier can say they are going to ignore that report and that it does not have the sanction of cabinet is beyond me.

The auto parts sector is crucial to the future development of an industry which is largely foreign owned. If we are going to Canadianize the industry, the first place it has to be Canadianized is in the auto parts sector. Ontario has always been weak in the auto parts sector. That is one of the reasons the auto pact was eventually negotiated. The report suggests, and proves, that things are getting worse in the auto parts sector.

For example, in 1975 we captured 88.3 per cent of the US market for engines imported into the United States. In 1979, four years later, that had dropped to 64.5 per cent. Engine parts were 41 per cent in 1975 and down to 39 per cent in 1979. Bodies and chassis were 51 per cent in 1975 and down to 24 per cent in 1979. Wheels, were at 72 per cent in 1975, but went down to 64 per cent in 1979. Again, those are not worst-case scenarios; those are the facts of what has happened in the auto industry.

This report, produced by the Treasury, has the auto industry pinned and describes very clearly what is happening. Page 60 of the report says:

"The direction for North American engine production in the 1980s is towards four-cylinder engines and diesels. General Motors projects that by 1985, 80 per cent of its North American vehicles will have four-cylinder engines and 25 per cent will be diesel powered. Ontario's position is made vulnerable by the fact that it has no production capabilities in either of these areas. Most alarming is the fact that we are losing the US market that we now hold for auto parts to the Japanese market."

Page 65 of the report states: "In recent years, Canada has been capturing a declining share of the US parts market. Between 1970 and 1979, export of Canadian auto parts to the United States increased from 1.3 billion to 4.3 billion or 226 per cent, while total US imports increased by 427 per cent to 10 billion over the same period.

"In 1970"—these statistics are more than just a bit significant; they are very important—"Canada accounted for 70 per cent of all US imports, West Germany for 8.5 per cent, Japan 8.5 per cent and other countries for 13 per cent. By 1979 this picture had changed radically, with Canada accounting for only 43 per cent, West Germany for nine, Japan 29 per cent"—Japan had 8.5 per cent just a few years before that, as I have already stated—"and others at 21 per cent."

The report concludes by saying, "If recent trends continue, Japan could displace Canada as the single most important supplier of auto parts to the United States in the very near future."

9 p.m.

One of the facts of the problem is we do virtually no research and development in auto parts in this country. Canadian auto parts firms, therefore, cannot compete with the Japanese auto parts firms.

Canadian auto parts firms have not been able to compete with the Japanese because we have not done enough research and development in this country.

The auto parts tech centre suggested under the BILD program is the one positive aspect of the BILD program for the auto parts industry. It is the only part that affects the auto industry at all.

However, as the members know, the auto tech centre was promised to the Niagara Peninsula. It was promised to Chatham. Then, when we were visited in Windsor by one of the cabinet ministers, now the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Walker) it was promised to Windsor, although two days later when the Premier stopped at the airport to go to Japan he corrected him and said it was not coming to Windsor.

Mr. Piché: Who wrote your speech, Chrysler?

Mr. Cooke: The statistics were written by one of the member's ministries, the Ministry of Treasury and Economics. That is why these statistics should be listened to by him, even though his minister does not believe them.

The conclusion of the report is devastating. It indicates clearly that, because of the technological changes, because of the structural problems, what we can expect and look forward to in this country is a 29 to 33 per cent decline in employment in the automobile industry.

The report, as I said, is statistical in nature. There are some scenarios built into the report, but I have quoted statistics and they speak for themselves. The scenarios developed were checked with Payne-Weber. One of the best-known auto people in the United States looked at that report, sent it back and said: "The report is right on. That is what is happening to the Canadian automobile industry, and that is what you can expect."

The basic problems in the automobile industry are an excellent example of what has happened to the manufacturing industries in this country and in this province, whether it be the machinery industry, mining machinery, food processing or manufacturing in general.

I want to spend a couple of minutes talking about the food processing industry and let the members draw their own parallels as to what is happening.

The food processing industry is extremely important to this province. One out of every four jobs in Ontario is dependent on this sector. However, the job loss is also significant. Total employment in 1967 was 90,987 and in 1977 it had dropped to 84,191, a drop of 6,796 jobs. Food processing plants are closing all over. Of the 25 counties for which data is available from 1970 to 1976, 80 per cent recorded a decline in food processing plants and employment.

A couple of examples: Huron county, a 37 per cent drop in the number of food processing plants and a 60 per cent drop in the number of jobs; Lennox and Addington, a 71 per cent drop in plants and a 75 per cent drop in the number of jobs; Sudbury, a 46 per cent drop in plants and a 37 per cent drop in the number of jobs. This is a result, clearly, of a large concentration of ownership in large plants. Basically, foreign interests own them.

Food processing is going the same route as auto did many years ago. Let me take a look at the foreign ownership.

In the establishments that produce food and vegetables, 24.8 per cent are foreign owned, and that represents 61.6 per cent of the employees. For flour and cereals, 40.7 per cent of the establishments are foreign owned and 74.2 per cent of the employees work for the foreign owned plants. In biscuits, 36.5 per cent of the

plants are foreign owned and 77.7 per cent of the employees work for the foreign owned plants. In miscellaneous foods, 34.3 per cent of the establishments are foreign owned and 75.3 per cent of the employees work for the foreign owned plants.

Foreign domination and multinational rationalization is clear in this sector, and clearly the result has been that in 1979, $1.5 billion worth of the food we consumed in Ontario was imported. Based on the food that is imported and could have been produced in Ontario, we could have produced 11,567 jobs with a direct payroll of $175 million in wages. The spinoff would have created 34,371 jobs with a payroll of $525 million.

If you add the problems that we have in the food processing industry with the job loss that we have in the auto sector, we are talking about 100,000 jobs in Ontario, Mr. Speaker. The results of the foreign domination and ownership of our economy are clear: job loss, loss of control of our economy and one of the very important problems we have talked about in this Legislature since we have resumed, that is, interest rates.

Interest rates are clearly linked to the fact that we have a serious problem with balance of trade in the manufacturing sector and with the control of our economy by American multinationals. We cannot really attack the structural problems and cure the interest rate problem until we get at the ownership and the dependence problems in this province and in this country.

There are solutions, however. We can take a look at the auto parts sector of the auto industry. It is an area where the vast majority of the individual plants are owned by Canadians. Although the vast majority of workers work for the 35 per cent of the plants which are foreign controlled, we have a base from which to work. We can expand those Canadian owned auto parts firms, but it will take government intervention.

Those across the floor say that government intervention is wrong. They do not know why they say it is wrong, it is just philosophically wrong for them. My support of it has something to do with my philosophy, but it has also to do with the fact that it is practical, pragmatic and the only solution which has not been tried by this government. Handing out grants and forgivable loans has not worked. It is time we looked at direct government intervention.

During the election we put forward the suggestion of Autocan, an auto parts crown corporation. Call it what you will—ToryCan, Torycar, I don't care—as long as it gets jobs created and attacks the structural problems in this sector. An auto parts crown corporation could be involved in research and development, which is one of the basic structural problems within the industry, and it could get involved with product development.

It could get involved with process technology and take a look at emphasizing the opportunities for productivity improvement and quality control. We could look at whole vehicle technology. We could take a look at the products which are being imported and where we can expand individual plants to meet those imports, plug the loopholes and make sure the jobs are here instead of in the United States, Japan and the other countries.

It can be done. It will mean that we cannot allow tax loopholes or give out grants. We have to consider loans, perhaps, with very strong job guarantees. The preferable solution, and the one I think can really work, is getting involved in joint ventures. The small Canadian firms do not have the capital to expand. They do not have the technology and therefore need government intervention and government money with equity because government must have a stake in the sector.

9:10 p.m.

We have done it with Petrocan and it did work—and even the federal Tories have been convinced that Petrocan works—and it can work in the auto parts sector as well. It is really the only alternative.

During the election campaign, my Tory opponent said to me: "Who is going to pay for autocan?" I ask you, Mr. Speaker, who is paying for the unemployment in Windsor right now? Who is paying for the unemployment in the Niagara Peninsula and in Oakville and the other auto cities? You and I as taxpayers are paying and we have people who want to be productive and want to contribute to our society but are not being given that opportunity.

As a result, we not only pay welfare and unemployment insurance; we pay increased health-care costs, we pay increased costs for the many social agencies. And there is human tragedy involved that we have gone into and have talked about in this Legislature on several occasions.

I could be optimistic if I thought that this government had the will, and I could be optimistic if I thought this government had the leader-

ship ability to get involved in the auto parts sector, one of the basic manufacturing industries in this province. It has been here for 38 years.

It is not going to happen by the Minister of Industry and Tourism and the Premier sitting on their butts and saying that everything is fine, that things are going to pick up and, "You shouldn't be so negative; be optimistic." I have no reason to be optimistic right now. This government has taken no concrete, positive action other than having an auto parts tech centre which was conceived for votes only and had nothing to do with proper economic planning.

The government knew there were problems in the automobile industry; it knew that its document on BILD had to say something about the automobile industry so it said: "The worst has passed. Things are turning around. We will give you an auto parts tech centre. That will solve the rest of the problems. Re-elect us."

It just isn't going to work. The only way the automobile industry can be turned around, the only way the food processing industry can be turned around before it gets into the same kind of shape the automobile industry is in, is by direct government involvement.

I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that over the next few years, you will be hearing this theme on several occasions when the Ford engine plants close down in Windsor, and when other plants close down in this province, and when the automobile industry continues to slide and all we hear from the minister is that things are fine.

We are going to raise these matters time and time again and eventually the government will have no alternative other than to implement these very positive proposals that my party has put forward.

Mr. Runciman: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted, and deem it a privilege as well as an opportunity, to say a few words in this debate in reply to the speech from the throne.

By participating in this debate, I have been given the opportunityto note that I represent the riding of Leeds and that, by virtue of my election, I am sitting in this Legislature instead of a man I have long admired and supported, Mr. James Auld, of Brockville.

I would like in my opening address to pay tribute to Mr. Auld and to his endeavours in this House, and as a cabinet minister and member for 26 1/2 years. I believe Jim Auld is one of the best known and most respected of politicians to pass this way and I am sure the House will join with me in wishing Mr. Auld a long and happy retirement from politics, although I am sure interest in the party and its fortunes will always be near and dear to him.

The throne speech has outlined in broad terms some of the policies that will carry this province forward into the 1980s. I expect and look forward with hope that these will include eastern Ontario in a measure more provident than in the past.

I have the honour to represent the historic riding of Leeds, a riding with an enviable record of loyalty to the Conservatives and the Progressive Conservative cause from the early days of Upper Canada. It also seems that from early times we have had a tough time convincing the government of the day that what is good for eastern Ontario is good for the rest of the province. However, there is—and I am sorry the member for Cornwall (Mr. Samis) isn't here this evening—at least one area of eastern Ontario that has not suffered from lack of attention from senior levels of government, and that is Cornwall.

Over the last decade we have seen countless millions of federal and provincial dollars directed to that city for a variety of projects. I do not fault the city fathers of Cornwall, or others. I commend them for their efforts and wonder what it is that attracts these funds to that corner of eastern Ontario. But I would suggest to my government colleagues that many other eastern Ontarians are also wondering about Cornwall's secret for receiving preferential treatment from the provincial government. They feel it is time to share the wealth in a more equitable manner.

For instance, in the speech from the throne there are indications that the government in its BILD program has more in mind for Cornwall—a theme park. Is Cornwall to be the area in eastern Ontario rewarded again by the government? I hope not, for the sake of the future of the rest of eastern Ontario. God knows I like Cornwall and its people, but there is more to eastern Ontario and its needs than Cornwall.

Cornwall already has Upper Canada Village at its doorstep with the Saunders power station and dam as man-made tourist attractions. I would suggest that Leeds is an ideal place for the government to develop a theme park.

There are many places along the Thousand Island Parkway between Gananoque and Long Beach on land already owned by the province. There are vistas along that 25-mile stretch of road unequalled in beauty in this province. Leeds has its own Blue Mountain located between

the St. Lawrence River and Charleston Lake, one of the most picturesque inland lakes in Ontario.

An hon. member: Named for a certain political party.

Mr. Runciman: Right, for a certain political party. The view from Blue Mountain is breathtaking. There is a lake near the top of it, Mirror Lake. Blue Mountain and its environs, up to and including shoreline on Charleston Lake, is owned mostly by the province.

In considering an eastern Ontario area for a theme park I commend these two locations for starters. I say starters because there are other beauty spots in Leeds. Look at Westport, nestled between lakes and mountains in north Leeds, or go east towards Portland on Big Rideau Lake. There is a wealth of choices and there can be no doubt that tourism in our area can stand a shot in the arm. A theme park can provide and ensure its viability as a year-round industry.

BILD also includes provisions for a research centre in the increasingly important field of microelectronics. Eastern Ontario has been mentioned as a possible site for such a centre because of the high technology industries in Ottawa. There are also some leading high tech industries in other sections of eastern Ontario that would benefit from research done in this area of the province. Microtel in Brockville is one of the largest in Canada and together with many others, makes eastern Ontario a logical choice for this type of development, especially if the government's promise to preserve good farm land has meaning.

In this regard, I would point to the BILD program and the need to consider some aspects of it in the light of the government's avowed policy of preserving good farm land.

9:20 p.m.

In my part of the country we have an overabundance of marginal farm land. It is indigenous to eastern Ontario. Much more incentive must be given to industry to locate in eastern Ontario on this marginal land and away from the breadbasket of southern Ontario. Eastern Ontario is fertile soil for industry and a research centre could encourage development between Ottawa and Kingston and make this the Golden Triangle of the 1980s.

This government, I am happy to say, considers a prosperous farming sector the basis of Ontario's wellbeing. Because of the nature of its terrain, Leeds is one of the great dairying sections of Ontario. While Leeds has some of the finest dairy farms in the province, the number is decreasing each year. What we have are large farm operations. The small family farm operation has either expanded to survive or disappeared. A great many small farmers are renting their land to their neighbours to aid in their neighbour's expansion while they either retire to the farm house or seek work in nearby urban areas. Many farmers I talked to would like to see more encouragement for the small family farm which is still the backbone of agriculture.

There is an old saying that the farmer is the only man in our economy who buys everything he buys at retail, sells everything he sells at wholesale and pays the freight both ways. Today there is still a lot of truth in that. The farmers in this province are facing tough times and this is an era when we need dynamic leadership in agriculture. I trust this government will continue to provide that leadership.

At one time, Leeds was the centre of the cheddar cheese industry in Ontario. There were more than 100 cheese factories. Today there are only two and both are famous for their products. Perhaps you have tried Plum Hollow cheddar or that made at Forfar, Mr. Speaker. If not I would be happy to see you get a sample.

There was a combination of factors that led to the demise of the small cheese factories. Big condenseries moved in, they needed milk supplies and they bought up the small cheese factory to get its milk supplies and then closed the cheese factory. At one time four of the largest condenseries in Canada were located in Leeds, one at Gananoque and three in Brockville. Like the cheese factories, they have also disappeared, although there is still one milk plant left, Ross Laboratories in Brockville, which produces the world-famous baby food formula, Simalac—but with a milk base from a milk plant in another riding.

It is impossible to turn back the clock, but I do think we should endeavour more strenuously to ensure that the family farm in Leeds does not go the way of the cheese factories and the milk plants. I would urge the government to assist me in ensuring that the two remaining cheese factories continue to survive and prosper. I say prosper because milk quotas play hob with their ability to meet demands for their products. Plum Hollow and Forfar cheeses of the cheddar variety are considered a gourmet's delight and we don't want to see them disappear.

I realize how important it is to have big cheese

factories to compete with the Quebec giant, but for too long we have been throwing the baby out with the bath water. Let us change that policy.

Leeds is also home base for one of North America's largest egg producers, Burnbrae Farms of Lyn. Some concerns have arisen in this area which I would like to relate to the Legislature.

Current government and egg board actions are tending to create segregation in Ontario's egg industry by creating different roles for northern Ontario than for the balance of the province. The decision to pay less levy in northern Ontario even though they get the same price as other producers and the decision to lock quotas in northern Ontario, while still allowing northern Ontario to buy quotas anywhere else in Ontario, are sources of concern for southern producers.

There is a growing need for responsible action by all levels of the egg industry. The system needs to be streamlined. Instead of adding extra tiers of boards and tribunals, cut the bureaucracy, and cut the costs at the board level and at the producer level.

Ontario farmers have to be competitive, keen and efficient. We, as a government, have to keep it as simple as possible. Ontario can and will provide food at very competitive prices for our consumers and still benefit our farmers, if we set things properly in place. We need to examine, on a regular basis, exactly how, when and why things are being done in agriculture in Ontario.

I would also urge the government to come to the aid of the small, independent grocery store, the one on the corner or in the rural village. That is also disappearing in Leeds, like the cheese factory and the milk plant. These family operated stores need encouragement if they are to survive.

Unlike other segments of our society, they are not looking for a government handout. They are asking for help in the form of a change in government policy having to do with the sale of beer and wine. I believe these small independent stores can survive with this kind of help. I have been told by many such small businessmen in Leeds that it would mean the difference between staying in business or closing. They need a shot in the arm, and they believe this would be an answer.

These people have recommended for the government's consideration that licences should be restricted to independent stores. At present, the independents are being squeezed severely by the food distribution system controlled by the big chains and by high interest rates. Introduction of wine and beer sales will give these independents new life.

Distribution is the key. It must be controlled by the province to ensure fairness. This would prevent layoffs of Brewers Retail employees, who could become part of a new alcoholic beverage distribution corporation charged with the vast system of distribution that would be needed. It would indeed create employment.

We always hear the argument that you cannot trust the private citizen with the sale of alcohol. I believe this can be countered by two points. One is that independents already successfully handle fish and game licences and the sale of motor vehicle licences in many areas. The second is to install a two tier system of licences, one for beer only, and one for beer and wine, the latter to be more strictly controlled by the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario.

A selling point in this proposal is the provision that only Canadian beer and wine could be sold. All imports would remain with the Liquor Control Board of Ontario store, which would allow for promotion in competition. This change of policy makes sense in eastern Ontario, adjacent as it is to Quebec and New York State, where such sales have been permitted for years. It would bring our laws more in line with those of our neighbours.

Licences should be handled through existing LLBO channels to ensure that we do not end up with stores with vast stocks of wine and beer and two cans of soup. There must be some provision that will ensure that larger firms cannot buy up small stores in order to remove their licences from the market. I am told that this has happened in other product lines under licences; tobacco wholesale licences, for instance. Firms sometimes exist on paper only. There must be strict control of hours of sale, regular inspections, some restrictions on discounting and payment in advance for stocks of beer and wine.

I believe in supporting these small independents in an effort to keep them in business. If beer and wine sales will do it, and I am assured it would, then I say it is a move this government can and should support.

9:30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, much has been said before and since the throne speech about labour relations in Ontario, and I have noted over the years with some amusement the thirdparty's claim to be the representative of the working people.

I suspect that the average man and woman in this province has a great deal of difficulty

relating to a party that is dominated both provincially and federally by academics, people who profess to understand the problems of the factory worker but who have no first-hand knowledge of the situation.

I have personally worked in industry for 19 years and served several terms as a union president, and a number of my government colleagues have similar histories. I suggest that this side of the House is much more qualified to appreciate and deal with the problems of the province's working men and women.

While I am cognizant of the concerns of many labour people about severance pay, there is another problem I wish to bring forward. It has to do with job security, especially in the provincial civil service. There are many civil servants in the riding of Leeds, be they nurses at the psychiatric hospital in Brockville or workers at one of the provincial parks. Although I have only been a member of the Legislature for a few weeks, I have already had union people and other individuals seeking my assistance in what they perceive to be, and what I feel, is a hardship and a threat to job security. It has to do with the current obsession with job evaluation in provincial work places.

There is currently one investigation going on in Leeds into a system that works undue strain on people in the provincial work places. In the field of labour relations, I feel it is time for the people responsible to re-assess the methods by which employees are evaluated regularly by their so-called superiors. I suggest that the current system of evaluation in provincial work places at least be modified, if not replaced by a more fair and equitable manner of assessing an employee's worth and ability.

Let us not judge a person by his or her name or the colour of their hair. Some people I am told are prematurely grey. Employees in the provincial work place tell me they are treated like school children and not as responsible adults.

There are a couple of other concerns that my constituents feel keenly about: One is the metric system. I don't know if that has been debated in this House or not but I think it is something that should be discussed in detail. My constituents do not like it; they do not understand it; they neither need it nor want it. I think a referendum would prove that the majority of people do not want it. It is not too late. I cannot agree entirely with that viewpoint, but I do believe this government should prevail upon the federal government to call a halt to further metrication.

Under the short-lived Clark government, the brakes were applied to the metric conversion program, a program that was brought into effect by order in council. It was slipped past Parliament in an omnibus bill known as C23, a bill dealing mostly with grain and related matters. The bill, however, allowed for the repeal of the Weights and Measures Act which, in effect, allowed for metric only. It thus removed from that act the limitations of the Governor in Council to abolish Canadian units of measure and trade.

The Liberals, and I will emphasize that, the Liberals had removed a clause from the bill that would have sent any proposals for change in the imperial system to Parliament for debate and approval.

Mr. Piché: That is the federal Liberals.

Mr. Runciman: That's right. Because of the way it was slipped past, metric has never been debated. This past month, delegations from the Canadian organization of small businesses and the Canadian Federation of Retail Grocers and others were in Ottawa protesting the order in council that says Canadian units of measurement shall not be permitted in Canada's retail trade, starting in January 1982.

Canadians have been told 95 per cent of the world uses metric. That is hogwash. Only 44 of the 152 countries in the United Nations have signed the metric treaty.

Actually, two thirds of the world's manufactured goods are to inch specifications and the United States, a source of at least 75 per cent of all Canada's trade, has backed off further conversion to metric. Only 4.8 per cent of Canada's trade goes to metric countries. In Britain, it was decided there would be no more compulsory metrication orders and the British metric board was abolished.

The federal Member of Parliament for Peterborough has told the House of Commons that 45 members of Metric Commission Canada's working group on scales is the group that will decide whether grocery stores are to be next on the list. Fourteen voting members of that group represent foreign companies selling weigh scales. Mr. Domm says there are 116,800 weigh scales in Canada's retail stores. At an average cost of $5,000 a scale, the cost to buy them will be $584 million and we all know the consumers will have to pay for them.

The federal government's special overview board set up by the Clark government found the metric program was not only an unpopular mistake, but that it had been very costly to

Canadians. The report called for the disbanding of the commission. That report noted that mandatory plans now being implemented are not in the public interest. Conversion to litres, for instance, resulted in an immediate hike of 12 per cent to the consumer.

The report said conversion in the dairy milk industry alone would cost Ontario consumers $55 million to $65 million by the time the conversion was complete and we know who pays for that. The consumer once again gets it in the neck. I say, "Let's give the consumer a break."

In 1970, the Liberal government promised to implement the metric system on a voluntary basis. It then abandoned that principle and laws were put into place to force its use, all without the backing of Parliament. Canadians were told to eat cake and like it. Is it not time for a consensus of Canadians on the use of metric? Would it not make more sense to oppose further moves to metric unless those moves are aligned with what is done in the US, our biggest trading partner?

If the federal government is unwilling to put the brakes on metric, I urge the government of Ontario to take action on its own and call a halt to the program within this province. Let us muster the intestinal fortitude required and give the people of this province and this country a clear indication that at least one government in this nation is willing to listen to the people it represents.

In concluding my remarks, I have one additional recommendation to make to the government. I would urge consideration by the Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell) of the petitioning of the federal government for the legalization, through prescription, of the use of heroin for terminally ill cancer patients. Heroin, although thought of primarily in terms of drug addiction, is the ultimate pain killer and should be made available to those who must suffer in agony at the end of life.

If any members of this House have experienced the trauma of witnessing the unabated suffering of loved ones dying of cancer and the desperate feeling of helplessness when one is told there is no medication available to relieve that agony, I suggest those members would be most sympathetic to making the world's most potent pain killer available to the terminally ill. I ask the Minister of Health to investigate the potential of this drug for such use and to provide the government with recommendations relative to that investigation and the use of heroin, for recommendation to the federal government.

9:40 p.m.

Mr. Ruston: I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the newly appointed Speaker, the member for Peterborough (Mr. Turner) and the Deputy Speaker, the member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz). When I look at the new map it is very difficult, because a very dark blue has been used this time and it is a little harder to read. I do not know if they were elected on a darker blue program this time or not, but I would like to congratulate you, the Acting Speaker, on being elected Deputy Chairman of the committee of the whole House. You are newly elected and I see you are making strides forward already. I guess that is one advantage of being elected to the party you were running for because you have made some very fast strides there. I congratulate you on it, sir, and I hope you have a very successful term in your office.

In the past few days we have had a number of people speak on different items with regard to the election. I suppose at a time like this when I have had my fifth provincial election, I take a minute or two to look back and see what went on for that five or six weeks. I suppose I have continued in those five terms to win the battle, but lose the war. I said that on one occasion in 1971 when I won the battle, that we lost the war. The candidate I was running against also won the battle because about six months later he was appointed to a judgeship. There are winners and losers and some losers are winners. I will accept that as what the people of Ontario wanted.

I am not sure that the presentation of the government in power, the Progressive Conservative Party, and their policies actually caused them to win the election. I think there are a number of causes. For one thing, there was a very low voter turnout. That does not necessarily mean that if more people had voted the results would have been different, but it concerns me when I see such a low turnout of voters.

One of the reasons I think there was a low turnout of voters in Ontario in this recent election is that people were rather mixed up. They could not understand that in Canada we had a Liberal government, with Mr. Trudeau as Prime Minister, who was obsessed with putting in a new constitution. Eight premiers had gone against him in a very strong way and yet, at the same time, we had Mr. Hatfield and the Premier of Ontario (Mr. Davis) supporting him in a very strong way.

During the election campaign, I attended a meeting with a representative of the chamber of commerce from Alberta. I think his name was Mr. Walters if I remember correctly. He spoke one Sunday at the Cleary Auditorium in Windsor and was leaving at three o'clock that afternoon, but a local church group had him come out to a little village church in Maidstone township where I live. About 50 or 60 people turned out and he talked for about 45 minutes on Alberta and the problems they feel they have with the rest of Canada. I think he spent about 30 minutes talking about oil and about 15 minutes talking about the constitution and then there were questions.

The reaction from the people who attended that meeting was surprising, and these were people in the age bracket of 40 to 65, small businessmen, farmers and so on. It was surprising to hear their reaction to what he was talking about and they were concerned mostly with what was going on between the federal government and Ontario. They seemed to be very confused about the Premier, who has always been at odds with the Prime Minister of Canada, especially during elections—practically every election I ran in except that of 1967.

The theme the Premier ran on was, "Damn Trudeau, blame everything on him." We took that, and when we went to the door and said we were Liberal, they said, "Oh, you are for Trudeau." Well, that was fine in some elections, but during others he was at odds, because he is the type of individual who can do things so you hate him very much at the time, and yet, on many occasions, two or three years later the same people will go out and vote for him.

They will vote for him because when you see him at the tables of Parliament and in foreign countries walking with those people who are in power, you have a feeling of confidence that the man knows what he is doing when he is there, whereas with Mr. Clark, when he was straggling around for the few days he was Prime Minister, one wondered if he really knew what was going on around him.

What I want to say is that the people who were at that meeting were very concerned. One person's comment was, "Well, Davis does not know what goes on any more than 150 miles outside of Toronto." He said, "That's all there is to Mr. Davis." That was one of the comments I heard. I am not sure what his political stripes were, but I have a feeling he was probably a Conservative supporter.

Anyway, that concern of the people was one of the things I noticed. On the other hand, there were two federal elections within nine months. Of course, I think most people will agree that the Dominion of Canada is probably the most over-governed country in the world. I heard someone get up here a few months ago and say they were going to introduce a bill that we have 155 or 185 members in the Legislature. I want to go on record right now, Mr. Speaker, to say I think that is ludicrous.

We have members from Metropolitan Toronto who do not even have half or two thirds the number of people I have in my riding. What we need is some absolutely proper allocation of ridings to bring the representation more in tune with what it should be. I think the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr. Wells) if I remember correctly, has the largest population in his riding of any riding in Ontario.

Mr. MacDonald: Does the member know that proposal came from Farquhar Oliver?

Mr. Ruston: I was not here. That was before my time, I'm sorry.

No, it was the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) last winter. Anyway, I think that definitely was caused partly by the low turnout in voters.

My own campaign was interesting, and I must say the Conservative candidate worked very hard. I have had five elections and I must say, with due respect to the other candidates who are good friends of mine, they ran reasonably good election campaigns. Of course, they are always good friends when you beat them, Mr. Speaker, but that is not really the case. I knew them a long time before they ran against me for office.

I must say they did not get out and pound doors or call on the telephone like the candidate for the Conservative Party this time. I will give him credit for that. I think he was fairly well organized in running the campaign.

One of the things I noticed in my other opponent for the New Democratic Party, a very fine young chap, is that he has a few things to learn yet. That will come about I suppose as time goes on. They generally think they know more than everyone else at any stage, but he is a fine chap, the deputy reeve of the town of Essex, so I am sure he is doing a good job.

However, he was talking about the turnout at the polls, and he said, "You know, if we could have got that other 15 per cent of the people out, we would have just swamped Ruston." I did a little research into some of the polls that had about 65 or 70 per cent of the people out, and

then I went down to those that had 45 or 50 per cent. It so happened in the polls that had the big turnouts we swamped them, whereas in the other polls we just beat them by 50 per cent or something. It seemed strange that he was saying, "If we had just got them out . . ."

In most cases those who do vote are probably representative of the general population. I know the government is in power here due to 25 per cent of the people who were eligible to vote. It makes it kind of bad when you look over that type of situation. I was always taught at home that one of the rights that we have in—

Hon. Mr. Gregory: If you think it looks bad from over there you should see it from over here.

9:50 p.m.

Mr. Ruston: That is okay. The member for Mississauga East will have his day, too.

I was always taught that the democratic right was something we should cherish. Perhaps I have said this before, but I guess it will not hurt to repeat it for the 22 new members who sit on the fence over there and are waiting to be chosen and brought down to the front. I was always taught at home that you should use your right to vote.

I can recall when I was a young whippersnapper and my father got into the old Model T and went back to the field through the lane with the old car. My oldest brother was driving a team of horses and my father made him tie them up to the rail fence. He said, "You know, son, this is election day and we don't miss voting in our household." So they went off to vote.

Another thing I used to hear him say in the big farm kitchen, which was about 20 feet wide and 20 feet long—you had lots of room to seat 15 people to eat a good dinner—was that one of the most important things was voting. He would say, "You will hear some people say: 'Sometimes you have elections too often and they cost so many millions of dollars,' but that is maybe only a dollar per person. There are millions of people throughout the world who would be glad to give $100 to have the right to vote."

I think the main problem is that we seem to have too many elections. Of course, with our type of parliamentary system, where there is a minority in many cases, they want to use every little motion as one of confidence. In the United States if Mr. Reagan does not get his package in the way he wants it we know what he is going to do. The House conference committee, which consists of people from the Senate and the House of Representatives, will make some changes in it and very likely he will accept it. Just because he does not get exactly what he wants does not mean he is allowed to call another election.

Maybe we should look at that some time. I know that it is difficult under our parliamentary system, but I do not know if it is all that bad, really. When you have elections so often I have a feeling they undermine the general system, and I think people lose confidence in it. That is the only reason I can figure as to why the turnout was as low as it was, because I think it was one of the smallest turnouts we have had in a provincial election in a long time.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to dwell on that. I am sure that many people were very disappointed that we did not have a public debate in the election campaign. The member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent) alluded earlier this afternoon to the TV debate and Mr. Bassett. Of course, many of us read that.

I am sure the general public does not take much notice of the fact that Mr. Bassett was a personal friend of Mr. Davis, and he was going to go along with him on having the debate. He would either have it in the first three weeks or not at all. Mr. Bassett fell right in line, and then today, of course, he was rewarded. I read that he was given an appointment.

Mr. Mancini: It is just a coincidence.

Mr. Ruston: Yes, it is just a coincidence. I realize that.

Another thing, Mr. Speaker, is the mass-media advertising by the government during the election campaign and immediately prior to it. We know the funds they spent on that are massive compared to most advertising campaigns from other political parties.

That is of a great deal of concern to me. I think it should be to everyone, and I think it should be to the members on the other side. If you were on the other side and could see us advertising with $50 million before an election I am sure you would have concerns about it as well, Mr. Speaker.

Even the federal government is now in the advertising business. They are going to spend $50 million to better inform the people that they have no campaign in mind. I accept that. That is part of the business.

The news media, of course, do not inform the people as well as they did years ago. The newspapers are owned by large corporations—many of them are owned by the same ones—and they have deteriorated considerably over the last few years.

In our area, we are not able to see the lottery and Wintario draws on television without a rotary antenna. I like to watch them to see who is winning. During the campaign, it was very interesting to see the Minister of Culture and Recreation (Mr. Baetz) pushing the button to start the drum turning and explaining how it worked. For a few months, all the cabinet ministers were on TV on Thursday night.

In the state of Michigan they have lotteries. We live close to Michigan and have easy access to their television channels. All they do is show the winning number for the day; that is all there is to it. You do not see Governor Milliken or any other politician pushing a button.

It is ridiculous that we spend $10 million or $15 million to advertise the lotteries. The original intent of the lotteries was to stop people buying tickets from other countries. Now they are the subject of mass-media advertising which tells you that if you don't gamble, you won't win. Everyone doesn't win, I can tell you that, Mr. Speaker.

I think I have gone on long enough with my leadoff statement. I am sure that the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Pich¢) would not want me to stop so soon. I know some of the fine people in Cochrane South, which is in the riding of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope). I do not always win their votes, but I do go up there once in a while to visit them. They treat one very well, and when I return after a few days there, I have to go on a diet. The people of South Porcupine and Timmins are very hospitable.

Mr. Speaker, I want to speak on a few more things affecting my riding and all of Ontario. The county of Essex operates three landfills for the city of Windsor and the rest of the county. One site in my riding is situated on 200 acres of prime agricultural land. Up until eight or nine years ago, each acre was producing about 125 bushels of corn, 35 to 40 bushels of soybeans and 20 to 25 tons of tomatoes. Now it is a mountainous landfill site. It is nice to have mountains in their natural habitat, but when one sees a mountain in that location, one thinks, "My God, we are in flat Essex county; what is going on?" Then you see that it is a mountain of garbage.

We know we have to have landfill sites, but we do not need to put 10,000 tons of garbage a day into a landfill site when the technology is available to have it used for other purposes. The other day I asked the Minister of Energy (Mr. Welch) whether he was working with industry and municipalities to establish projects to convert waste to energy. He told me I had not been reading all the material he sends out in this regard.

So I began to dig. We have been moving for three weeks and everything is still piled up. I do not know where we are going, but that is another story and I will talk about it another time. I managed to find a news release, dated July 28, 1980, in which the minister said how much he was doing to convert garbage into power. There were 11 projects mentioned, and when I called the ministry to get some information, I found that so far, although one project is burning waste, not one of the 11 has created any steam or electric power.

10 p.m.

I am aware that the minister is making an agreement with Tricil Limited in the St. Catharines area, and that General Motors is also going ahead with the project, which will convert thousands of tons of garbage to steam each year.

So these projects are feasible. They will cost a little more than a landfill site, but it is better than building landfill sites in prime agricultural land, especially in Essex county, which has a high heat level. The riding of Essex South is one of the two warmest parts of Ontario; the other is in the Niagara Falls area. Essex North is only fractionally cooler, but heat is the key to agriculture. There is good land in northern Ontario and in the clay belt, but one cannot grow all the things which can be grown in Essex county. It takes a combination of good land and heat. I am sure the member for Cochrane North is aware of that from his own experience.

In addition to the loss of good farm lands, landfill sites affect the water table. The county of Essex supplies water to one of the small farms in the area with a disclaimer of responsibility for the quality of the water. Members can make of that what they will, but there must be some reason for it. It is also of concern to many people there who depend on well water.

Ten per cent of what goes in the landfill site now is liquid industrial waste. The ministry recommended they dispose of asbestos there, but the local landfill committee has rejected it so far. We really do not know for sure what is going on, but 45-gallon metal barrels are brought in. Some people tell me they are empty, but I cannot imagine they would be disposing of undamaged barrels, if they were empty, without flattening them for reasons of space. I suspect they may contain a certain amount of industrial waste of some kind.

We accept the principle that there must be

landfill sites for certain purposes, but we believe there are alternatives. The member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) recently visited a disposal site in the United States. The plant consists of a large cement block and metal building with four smokestacks. He told me that when he drove up to the installation, nothing was coming out of the stacks and thought that nothing was being burned. One of the men who accompanied him said, "I think you will find out differently when we go inside." They found that, in fact, there were four big burners in operation with nothing visible coming out of the four chimney stacks. That is because they use natural gas as an afterburner to incinerate anything left in the stacks.

So these things can be done. The steam produced can be used to heat buildings, et cetera. This type of new industry would create employnent. Instead of ruining good farm land, we would be creating new jobs. It might cost a little money, but it would build something for the future.

I do not want my grandchildren to wonder what is being put into the ground in those garbage dumps, which are going to cover thousands of acres. The rural areas do not object to accepting necessary waste from the cities, but we do object to the excess amounts we are being forced to accept. We think these alternatives should be put into effect.

I also want to talk a little bit about the auto plants. I am sure it has been stressed here on a number of occasions. I want to congratulate our new member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye). He is an asset to our party and I am sure will be an asset to this Legislature.

He ran a hard campaign and worked really hard. We are happy he was successful. We were sure he would be, but one never knows. I am never one to predict what is going on during an election campaign. Sometimes it comes back to haunt one. Going by what a candidate who lost had observed on TV one night, it is probably best not to brag before the votes are counted.

Mr. Mancini: What was his observation?

Mr. Ruston: His prediction was—and I have great respect for the former member—"Four out of five in Essex and Windsor for the NDP." It was four out of five all right—for us.

The auto plants have already been stressed a fair amount. I know the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Cooke) spoke tonight. The member for Windsor-Sandwich spoke about it. It is a great concern.

I think the real problem is that the social benefits in our country have been put into effect in such a piecemeal way. There are local governments that give a certain amount of assistance to people. Then the provincial government and, of course, the federal government get involved in other ways.

We had people running out of unemployment insurance. The great thing was we should pick up the tab, but people who were laid off in areas that did not involve the automobile industry would not be entitled to it.

What I cannot understand is, if we are going to put in social benefits, why do we not make them so that if a person cannot find a job, no matter where he is located he is entitled to those benefits. They should be unemployment insurance benefits and a person should not have to go on welfare. If we had something similar to that, rather than the hotchpotch we have had, there would have been fewer real problems in our area.

We have talked about guaranteed annual income. I have talked to people who work for Canada Manpower. They are criticized at times because they cannot find someone a job and so forth. A person has to keep going there, has to keep registering in order to be entitled to welfare benefits, or social services benefits or unemployment insurance benefits. But they can only find jobs if they are there; they cannot make jobs. Some of them tell me we could finance a guaranteed annual income with about 25 per cent fewer people looking after it as employees in the bureaucracies of all three levels of government. We could finance it much more cheaply than we are doing now.

After reading a number of articles about it, I have a great desire that we start looking at it more seriously and abandon some of this hotchpotch assistance where Harold Ballard gets $500 when he is worth $1 million a year while some person in a nursing home, who has no other income, gets $100. This hotchpotch of benefits is ridiculous.

In most cases senior citizens, people over 65, are pretty well taken care of. We have the guaranteed income supplement and Gains. They sometimes have a problem if they are in areas where they cannot get geared-to-income housing or senior citizens' apartments. But if they are available, there are few people over 65 who are not taken care of.

However, there are an awful lot of people between 50 and 65 who need assistance, and then we have some of these situations where, as I mentioned, one sends a $500 cheque to a millionaire.

I have even had people come to me and say, "Why are we getting this $500?" I say, "Well, you should put it on your income tax." He says: "I don't know. It doesn't make sense to me. Why put it on the tax? If I have more income, then I will get some back. If I have too much income, I won't get any back." I really think the tax credit system is much fairer.

It has been mentioned that the Ford engine plant is now operating. About 1,000 people are working there. Some say the V-6 engine is not economical and that more people are going to the V-4, but I have had occasion to drive my son's V-6 and the gas mileage is 26 miles to the gallon.

Looking back five or six years ago to the 1973 and 1974 models, they were gas guzzlers and did about 15 miles to the gallon. If they have improved that much already, I think we could cut down on consumption. It makes it economical. So I am not throwing out the idea that the V-6 is not still a useful engine. I think it will be used for some time, especially in the mid-size car. There is still a potential for the V-6 engine.

10:10 p.m.

The member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman) spoke a few minutes ago about the metric system. It is interesting; a lot of people talk about it.

I had a call on Sunday from someone who was very upset about the metric system. All the spray material they are using now to spray their land for weeds and bugs and whatever is all in the metric system this year. They are a little concerned as to how they are going to be able to handle it. Of course, some of the big operations have a computer on the machine that handles it all. Just press the button and everything goes, and with luck it is all right.

The member was talking about it, but he failed to mention that his government never, at any time, made any major objection to the federal government when it initiated the metric system. It brought in the metric system for speed limits on the roads. Never at any time I am aware of in the last 13 or 14 years did this government made any objection to the metric system. So I do not think the members opposite can actually stand up in this House and blame the federal government for putting in the metric system when they sat back on their hands over there and never raised any objection.

Another problem I am sure all the members have had or will have—I tell new members right now—is with the Workmen's Compensation Board. I guess every one of the older members around here finds it the most frustrating. If they do not, I am sure their assistants do. The Workmen's Compensation Board has to be the most difficult area we have to deal with as members. I really do not know for sure what the answer is.

I visited a couple of doctors a couple of weeks ago with regard to workmen's compensation and it was rather interesting to hear them talk about it in general. They have people come into their office and say they have something wrong with their finger or whatever and they did it at the factory that day, so the doctor puts them down as workmen's compensation cases. They send the claims in to workmen's compensation and about a year later they find such claims were not accepted as workmen's compensation, so then they send them in to OHIP which says, "These claims are six months old and we cannot accept them." One doctor showed me the list of claims he had, pages of them, left on his books for the last number of years. What is he supposed to do with them?

Another thing that doctor said is when he has a patient in, he tries to assess the patient the best way he can. He may suggest the patient should not work for a week because of his injury and workmen's compensation will say there is no reason why he cannot work. The doctor says he feels obligated to his patient. He is doing what he thinks is right for the patient, and yet some other person reading over a report here in Toronto says that patient should not be entitled to anything and he can get nothing.

The problem is finding the file. They file them sideways, upside down and from one floor to the other. I understand if one person calls to make an inquiry on a file, it is then pulled and if that person goes to someone else to inquire about it, the second person will not be able to find it. If most of the recommendations of the Weiler report were put into effect, it would solve a lot of our problems. I hope that will be dealt with soon.

I am sure the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps) will be delving into this much more thoroughly at a later date. She is our Labour critic and I know she is well versed in workmen's compensation rules and regulations. I am sure she will be much better at looking into those things.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to read an article from the Detroit News. It is rather a strange article, but it has to do with the automobile industry. It was written by June Brown, in the Detroit News of March 8, 1981. I will just read it the way it is, and let members figure out what is going on:

"The foreign country presently most dangerous to the United Stated is not Russia but Japan. Having lost World War II, the Japanese have embarked on a conscious or unconscious method of revenge. Japan has grabbed America by its industrial complex and is rapidly strangling it to death. The method that Japan uses has become quite clear. Having no antitrust laws such as we have, which prevent corporations from co-operating, Japan allows competing corporations to combine their research and use that information to destroy one American industry after another.

"Years ago, this country had a strong steel industry. Today it is barely hanging on. Once Harley-Davidson was a big name in motorcycles. Today the Japanese have reduced it to an also-ran. The list is long: radios, audio equipment, videotape recorders, TV sets, pocket calculators, sewing machines, pianos and many more. Most people in Michigan did not notice the Japanese attack until it hit the auto industry, displaced thousands of workers and precipitated the current recession. Now it is clear that Japan is blatantly misusing America's friendship.

"For example, US-produced cars which go to Japan must pay all Japanese taxes as well as hidden and open US taxes. But Japanese cars coming into the United States pay only Japanese taxes; all the United States charges is a 2.9 per centduty.

"The United States is the only major industrialized country that allows Japan to dump its cars with unrestricted freedom. Since Japan is winning the war against the American automobile industry, if not against the entire US industrial complex, one would think that its game plan would be satisfied. Not so. Japan has launched another war against our farm machinery industry. Imported tractor sales have climbed from 13,700 in 1970 to more than 47,300 in 1979. An increasing number comes from Japan.

"That's not all. Xerox has a $20 billion industry that is now under attack by Japan. The Japanese have come in with a cheaper product, made possible by their government's help. Consumers don't need government help to save their jobs. All they need is active consumer leadership and the determination to 'Buy American.'"

That is what I want to say, "Buy American." Well, we say, "Buy Canadian." We have the auto pact and some people may say we should not have had it, but I think it is better than the system we had before.

We are not making the kind of cars people want to buy. We had a number of stickers that said, "Buy the car your neighbour helped to build." One of my neighbours who works in the automobile industry said, "We should build the cars our neighbours want to buy," which in the last five or six years is what has been happening. He is right up to a point, because in the last couple of years we have had to get into a mass changing of our whole automobile lifestyle because of the oil situation.

10:20 p.m.

This year, we can compete with any imported cars, but some people have a false sense of security and seem to think that because the car is imported, it is better made. You sometimes find that with a person working in a factory. A person working at Ford might buy a General Motors car. A person working at Chrysler might buy a General Motors car. Or a person working at Ford might buy a Chrysler car. One may get used to a particular make or might see something built and say: "I don't want this that way. Maybe they do better over at the other place." That is human nature. It is all part of buying and so on, and that is quite all right.

The new small cars that we have now in Ontario, in Canada and in the United States are competing against imports, certainly as far as gas consumption is concerned; they are giving wonderful mileage and, in my opinion, standing up well. We have to sell that to the people of Ontario, of Canada and of the United States and show them that we are capable of building a quality product. I think the workers and industry are trying to make a new attempt to co-operate to see that this comes about.

I have pretty well covered all the things I wanted to, although I have a letter here and maybe it would be a good idea if I were to read it. It is from Scarborough and it is dated either March or April 16, 1981. It is from Premier William G. Davis, 180 Dundas Street West, Suite 301, Toronto, Ontario, to Mr. R. Ruston at my city address, here in Toronto:

"Since becoming Premier in 1971, I have taken time to travel across Ontario to listen to what the people of the province think are the major issues of the day"—oh, it is marked January 28—"and what the government should do to solve them. Unfortunately, there never seems to be enough time to personally visit young people."

I am glad to hear the Premier say I am young. I will have to remind him of that tomorrow. I think I am 10 years older than he is; however, I

must look younger I guess. He says right in his letter, "It is very nice to get in touch with you young people." There is his signature in blue ink right there, "Bill Davis".

"The survey is being sent to a limited number of people in Ontario and, as a person who cares about the future of our province, I hope you will take just a few minutes to complete the survey. Your comments, advice and suggestions would be most helpful to me."

Interjections.

Mr. Ruston: He says, "We have made great progress in the last four years." Yes, we went from number one to number 10 in manufacturing. That is the kind of progress that he made. Then he has a questionnaire, of course. He is a great guy for polls. But one of the questions has nothing to do with the province. It says, "What would you like to see the Ontario government do about the national unemployment situation?" I think he should be doing something about the Ontario unemployment situation, which would help unemployment generally. But the unemployment situation in the rest of Canada is not all that bad; it is really in Ontario.

When I fill this out, I think I am going to put in very bold print, "Why not just do something for Ontario unemployment right now?" Then the results of that will compound and the effect will be like a snowball: people will buy more things and it will help everybody in Canada.

I suppose he wants a contribution too. It says—

An hon. member: You mean he sent that around for the money?

Mr. Ruston: I will have to think about that. I do not know who pays for this. I have not figured it out. I guess it is the same address, 180 Dundas Street West. I will have to go down there and see what is going on. Maybe the government whip could tell me what is down there; is that the party's headquarters?

Interjection.

Mr. Ruston: He does not know? Well, maybe we will send somebody down to deliver it by hand so we can see what it is all about.

Mr. Speaker, I have a couple of other things I want to mention, and I can probably finish in a couple of minutes.

I want to speak with regard to agriculture. One of the possibilities that we have in Essex and Kent counties is that we grow great tomatoes down there, and we are trying to get the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Henderson) to put a little more steam into the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Grossman) to get some tomato paste factories built in Essex and Kent counties.

I received a telephone call from some people involved in an industry in Ontario that is importing tomato paste. They are importing it for 30 cents a pound at the source, which is 36 cents Canadian a pound. With freight, duties, et cetera, they are paying 45 cents a pound. One company is importing three million pounds a year.

We have the ability, the land and the farmers to grow tomatoes. A couple of years ago, the federal government raised the import duties on it so they could get going, but Mr. Whelan says it is up to the industry and the provinces to encourage the factories to get going, and I think he is right. I do not think all the people of Canada should be paying to help Ontario finance some tomato paste factories in Essex county. I think it should be up to the province of Ontario.

We will be following that up, but I think that is a very important part of our economy in Essex county.

I think I have used enough time, Mr. Speaker, and I want to thank you very much.

On motion by Mr. Charlton, the debate was adjourned.

Mr. Speaker: I deem a motion to adjourn to have been made, and I call on Mr. Boudria to speak for five minutes.

CHAMPLAIN SCHOOL

Mr. Boudria: Earlier today, Mr. Speaker, pursuant to standing order 28(a), I asked to be heard tonight at this time. It concerns a question I raised in the Legislature this afternoon to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea).

At that time I asked the minister whether, in view of the fact that he has now decided to close the Champlain training centre in my constituency, he would be willing to make a special effort to relocate the employees so affected, some 70 full-time employees, and to give a special severance pay to the 15 part-time or contract employees who were there.

The reply given to me by the minister goes something like this: The minister told me that, before I make remarks in this House, I should consider the repercussions of my demands. To me, this insinuates that if I speak on behalf of my constituents in this Legislature and it so embarrasses the minister, the result will be that my constituents will be punished for my doing so.

I resent that very much. I feel the electors in

my riding were not very well represented for the past 31 years, and now that I am here I intend to give them the best representation I know how. I feel that as the member for my constituency, it is perfectly in order for me to ask what will be done to alleviate this potential loss of 70 jobs.

The minister also replied, "Surely he is not suggesting that I start placing young offenders into mini-institutions just for the sake of having to build institutions," meaning that I was suggesting that these mini-institutions be built.

I remind the minister it was his own ministry that was already planning to build three separate facilities in my constituency. I have here the details of the dates of the events that were to go on. The dates I have here show May 7 as the date the tenders were called, May 29 as the date the land survey is to be completed, June 16 as the tender closing date and so on. This is to locate these people potentially for some date that was to be after the September 1 opening of the agricultural college in my constituency.

In saying that it is my idea to have these three mini-institutions in the riding, the minister is not correct. It comes from his ministry. The letter I have here, signed by officials of his ministry, discusses this proposed project. If the minister is suggesting now that these three housing units are not required, I wonder why they were required three weeks ago, before I asked this question in this House. All of a sudden the necessity for having these facilities seems to have vanished into thin air.

10:30 p.m.

We are told there are only 13 young offenders located there. Perhaps that is correct and the number has dwindled from 19, which it was at the time the officials of the same ministry gave me the figures less than one week ago. Whether there are 13 or 19 does not really change the substance of the question or the answer I was looking to get.

I wanted to know (1) what is going to be done to find jobs in the neighbouring area for the residents of my constituency, who are principally francophones and would not be very well located 100 miles away; (2) what will be done to help the part-time or contract employees by way of severance pay; and (3) whether the minister will consider building those three small housing units he has now decided not to build, and, if not, the reason for his change of heart.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Drea, you have five minutes for replying.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, to clear the record on the question that was asked about what would happen to the employees in terms of job opportunities, in the second line of my response I said not only what the government position was but also what was told to Mr. O'Flynn, the head of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, on Friday, and to the actual union people at the scene on Monday. It was made very plain that every effort would be expended to try to find them jobs in the government service. That is exactly what I said this afternoon.

Second, a question was asked about severance pay for contract employees. In my response, I provided absolutely clearly that, if there were terminations, they would be handled under the existing procedures of the government when they occur.

To come to the particular situation, there is an institution that holds 13 young offenders. It has a staff, as I understand it, of 73, including civil servants as well as contract employees. That institution is not required. There is space in three other training schools in this province for the rather small number of young offenders who go to that training school.

Some years ago, and I can recall it, there were rather heated exchanges on the floor of this House concerning the matter of training schools as the be-all and end-all for any type of young person, be it an offender under the Juvenile Delinquents Act, a truant or just someone who could not get along at home. I can recall one celebrated Friday in here when this House was determined, as a result of an extremely sad event, that the training school would be put into its proper role, which was as a highly structured program for a limited number who required it.

For the past number of years that has been going on. I was the first Minister of Correctional Services in this province who did not have juveniles. They were transferred into the ministry I now have. And side by side, some years ago, we were closing institutions on the adult side. I closed seven of them. At the same time, four or five of the juvenile offenders—

Ms. Copps: Answer the question.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I answered the question this afternoon.

Ms. Copps: The question is about your government.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We are coming to that, if the honourable member will be patient. The policy is there. Before I was minister, there was the thought of building many institutions. Not one proposal was accepted. They were looking around. When I became the minister, I looked at the situation, and the situation is that nothing is required there.

The funds that would be allocated to this waste will be used for expanded children's services in eastern Ontario, where there is a very substantial need, particularly for children's mental health beds. All I am doing is taking money that would have been wasted on an obsolete facility and putting it into programs that are needed in that area, particularly in the Franco-Ontarian community. That is exactly what is going on.

The honourable member suggests that I am punishing him or the area, but I made it abundantly plain when I was asked about this matter by the media, following the Monday announcement. I told them: "I made the decision. We will be announcing, in the near future, a package of children's services for the area."

Mr. Speaker: The minister's time has expired.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That, I hope, ends the matter, Mr. Speaker.

The House adjourned at 10:37 p.m.

CONTENTS

Thursday, May 7, 1981

Throne speech debate

Mr. Eves (continuing). 471
Mr. Elston. 473
Mr. Cooke. 477
Mr. Runciman. 483
Mr. Ruston. 487
Champlain School, Mr. Boudria, Mr. Drea. 494
Adjournment. 496

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Ashe, Hon. G. L.; Minister of Revenue (Durham West PC)
Boudria, D. (Prescott-Russell L)
Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
Copps, S. M. (Hamilton Centre L)
Cousens, D. (York Centre PC)
Cureatz, S. L.; Deputy Speaker (Durham East PC)
Drea, Hon. F; Minister of Community and Social Services (Scarborough Centre PC)
Eakins, J. F. (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Elston, M. J. (Huron-Bruce L)
Eves, E. L. (Parry Sound PC)
Gregory, Hon. M. E. C.; Minister without Portfolio (Mississauga East PC)
Mancini, R. (Essex South L)
Piché, R. L. (Cochrane North PC)
Riddell, J. K. (Huron-Middlesex L)
Runciman, R. W. (Leeds PC)
Ruston, R. F. (Essex North L)
Turner, Hon. J. M.; Speaker (Peterborough PC)

Publications

Ontario

No. 15

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



First Session, Thirty-Second Parliament
Friday, May 8, 1981

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

Hansard subscription price is $15.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Central Purchasing Service, Print Procurement Section, Ministry of Government Services, 8th Floor, Ferguson Block, Parliament Buildings, Toronto M7A 1N3. Phone (416) 965-2238.

Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Friday, May 8, 1981

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

HOTEL INSPECTION

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, a point of privilege: Over the last few days we have been asking a series of questions on the split jurisdiction in the matter of fire safety in hotels, the jurisdiction being split between the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario and the fire marshal's office. I am concerned about the way in which the House is being treated by the Solicitor General (Mr. McMurtry), who, within the confines of this House, answered the questions in one way and then stepped right outside the door and answered the same questions to the press in quite another way.

I believe both the privileges of the members of this House and the conduct of business of the public in this House are undermined to some extent when a senior minister of the Crown does this sort of thing. I simply point out that we have been asking questions for several days on this topic, and on May 5, the Solicitor General's answer was: "There are distinct advantages in having the inspectors who are responsible for licensed premises, who are there on a regular basis, carrying out fire inspections."

He then walked right out of the door and said to a reporter for the Globe and Mail: "The split jurisdiction has concerned the government for some time, and we are obviously going to have to rethink some of this."

The next sitting day, on May 7, he said in the House in answer to a question from the member for Huron-Bruce (Mr. Elston): "I do not think it can be dealt with simply on the basis of yes or no. Come and talk in our Solicitor General's estimates. I am sure you can go down there and discuss it," and so on. He walked right out of the door of the House and said, "I think there is a great deal of wisdom in that recommendation for the split jurisdiction. My own personal inclination at the present time is to separate those two functions"—the exact opposite of what he had said two days earlier in the House.

I do not take issue with the answer that the Solicitor General gave to the reporters, but I do think we are entitled to the same answers within the House as he felt free to give outside the confines of this chamber.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, to respond briefly, I only heard the tail-end of the Leader of the Opposition's comments. I just want to point out that the inquest jury came down with its verdict. I think it did so yesterday morning, although I am not sure. I first saw the recommendations just before I entered the House yesterday afternoon.

Given the thorough, conscientious and wise approach to a very complex issue adopted by the inquest jury, it certainly helped fortify my personal view that it would probably be in the public interest to have the liquor inspectors, who are doing the fire inspections as agents for the fire marshal, operate directly under the jurisdiction of the fire marshal, while making it clear I still want to give an opportunity for the views of the office of the fire marshal to be heard.

The Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations may have observations pertinent to the issue. The matter is still under discussion. I want to say emphatically that nothing I said yesterday was in any way inconsistent with what I said in the Legislature on Tuesday and the Leader of the Opposition really does know that.

Mr. Smith: As to that last comment, Mr. Speaker, about the Leader of the Opposition knowing that, I must rise and speak to the same point of privilege and simply say that you, Mr. Speaker, were in the House when all of these questions were asked and you yourself will judge, as will others, both the tone and the nature of the comments made by the Solicitor General in the House with regard to the matter of split jurisdiction and the fact that, on both occasions—not just after the report, but two days earlier as well—he took a very different tone and said different things outside this House.

In my view, without debating the issue itself because this is not the time for it, those who were present for those debates will realize that both the tone and the substance were different. I believe the House is entitled to the same consideration the Solicitor General gives to reporters who interview him in the corridors.

Mr. Speaker: The Leader of the Opposition's

point of privilege is well taken. Because the matter has not been finalized and is still under discussion, it would seem to me that some of the answer contained a personal opinion rather than a straight, factual answer.

MINISTER'S REMARKS

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: Yesterday, in response to a question placed by the member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht), the Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell) said in part, "Why is it there are more horses' asses in the world than there are horses' asses every time I listen to that honourable member?"

The standing orders, the rules of procedure which we try to follow in this House, state clearly under the rules of debate, section 19(d)(11): "In debate, a member shall be called to order by the Speaker if he: Uses abusive or insulting language of a nature likely to create disorder." Goodness knows, there is enough disorder in this place but I find it repugnant to have the minister be allowed to get away with what I consider to be a very abusive term. I think he should be called to order and asked to remove that remark.

Mr. Speaker: The minister is not in the House and unfortunately I did not hear the remark. However, when he comes in I will have him reply to your point.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, if you recall, the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds), the deputy House leader for this party, raised that matter yesterday and asked that the remark be withdrawn as unparliamentary. Perhaps you would recall that interjection on the matter by my colleague.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Riverdale is right and we will wait until the minister comes to the House.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

PUBLIC COMMERCIAL VEHICLES ACT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce today the formation of the Public Commercial Vehicles Act review committee, a committee charged with the specific task of laying the groundwork for developing a new Highway Transport Act to regulate Ontario's trucking industry.

10:10 a.m.

As honourable members know, the government is committed to regulation of this important industry to ensure the continuance of effective competition within a positive business environment suited to the 1980s and the foreseeable future. My ministry has already taken some detailed steps in this direction but, as recommended by the select committee on the highway transportation of goods, we now intend to address the need to revamp the entire PCV Act and formulate a new philosophical basis for regulation of the shipping and trucking industry in Ontario.

The turn of recent economic factors alone would justify such a review, yet also note that my ministry has been dissatisfied with certain aspects of the existing regulations for some time. More importantly, some operators have taken leave to circumvent some of the existing regulations, and this cannot be allowed to continue.

As a result, Ontario shippers, truckers and the public in general are not being well served by the present regulatory framework. Thus, it is our intent that legislation based on a new set of principles will help to eliminate abuse while making the industry more efficient.

Participants invited to sit on the PCV Act review committee represent a cross-section of business and public interests from across the province, including experts like Stephen Flott, executive vice-president and general manager of the Ontario Trucking Association, along with Bruce Alexander, chairman of the Ontario Highway Transport Board, for example. Senior staff from my ministry, of course, will be available to give support and act in a liaison role.

The committee's terms of reference include present and future economic factors, as I mentioned earlier; future needs of the shipping public and carriers; technological advances such as electronic data transmission; and prosecution and penalties for contravention of the regulations, just to name a few areas where attention will be focused.

The main PCV Act review committee has the flexibility and leeway to appoint subcommittees or to engage consultants to carry out in-depth examination of specific topics related to formulation of the new legislation. The ministry will reimburse committee members only for out of pocket expenses, such as meals, travel expenses and accommodation while serving. I anticipate that my ministry will be in a position to prepare legislative proposals by the fall of 1982.

Once again I would like to emphasize that the

review committee is broadly based, including representatives from all sectors and interest groups from different regions in the province.

In conclusion, I would like to read out a list of committee members and the organizations they represent. Besides Mr. Flott and Mr. Alexander, whom I mentioned earlier, they include Mr. Cam Carruth, Alltrans Express; Mr. Andy Frazer, Bulk Carriers; Mr. Bill Morris, Imperial Oil Limited; Mr. Rod Taylor, Canadian Manufacturers' Association; Mr. Fred Loftin, United Co-operatives of Ontario; Mr. Ernie Barber, Northern Telecom; Mr. Dave McCalden, Sears Limited; and Mr. Hudson Janisch, University of Toronto, plus nominees from the Canadian Bankers' Association, Motor Vehicle Manufacturers' Association, Insurance Bureau of Canada, Teamsters' Union, the owner-operators, a northern Ontario municipality and selected private-sector interests.

From the Ministry of Transportation and Communications there will be Mr. Mark Larratt-Smith, assistant deputy minister, transportation regulations; Mr. Jeff McCombe, MTC's director, legal services; Mr. Charles Wilmot, MTC's executive director, driver and vehicle regional operations division; and Mr. Robin Summerley, co-ordinator, truck transportation office.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE SURCHARGES

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I have a statement to make about automobile insurance surcharges to the elderly. It has been brought to my attention by the superintendent of insurance that he is still receiving complaints from elderly drivers who are claim and accident-free that they are being surcharged or refused renewal of their car insurance by some insurance companies after they pass an arbitrary age, usually 65 or older. In some cases the premium increase has been as high as 100 per cent. In other cases, elderly drivers in good health have been asked to submit to a medical examination before their coverage will be renewed, solely because they have passed a certain age.

Mr. Speaker, I find this situation totally unacceptable. These practices must stop unless there is some justification based on specific medical impairment, driver conviction or accident record. I am not aware of any justification for regarding all elderly drivers, as a class, as uninsurable.

I am aware that the Insurance Bureau of Canada is currently undertaking a study into the complexities of changing the age, sex and marital status system used for rating automobile premiums for drivers under 25, but this is separate from the action I want to announce today.

I want the House to know that we will not tolerate such unfair practices by automobile insurers. As a demonstration of that commitment, we will be conducting our own inquiry into those companies about whom we have received complaints concerning their treatment of elderly drivers. I should mention that the superintendent of insurance has made our plans for this inquiry known to the Insurance Bureau of Canada.

If our preliminary investigation reveals sufficient grounds, the superintendent of insurance will hold a hearing under section 391 of the Insurance Act to determine whether to make an order that these unfair practices be stopped. Our investigation will start immediately under the authority granted in section 390 of the Insurance Act. Investigators will visit three companies and examine their operating and instruction manuals: Commercial Union Assurance Company of Canada, Constitution Insurance Company of Canada and the Home Insurance Company.

Let me also say, most emphatically, that we will also investigate any other insurance company which is reported to us to be engaging in similar unfair practices.

POLICE PROTECTIVE VESTS

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I wish today to bring members of the Legislature up to date in relation to the progress being made towards equipping Ontario police officers with protective vests. Members will recall the government commitment earlier this year to purchase the vests for Ontario Provincial Police officers and the further commitment to assume 50 per cent of the costs to provide similar protection for municipal and regional police forces.

The next step was to form a committee to ensure the maximum standards of safety and comfort. That committee included representatives of the police chiefs, the police associations, police governing authorities, the Ontario Police Commission and the ministry's Centre of Forensic Science.

The working committee moved quickly to establish a set of standards. The Ontario Police Commission followed up on that initiative by sending questionnaires to all municipal and

regional forces. The questionnaires were designed to determine how many of the protective vests would be needed and whether or not it would be beneficial for the provincial government to assume a central purchasing role.

Results of the survey indicate that approximately 9,600 of the protective vests will be purchased for municipal and regional police officers, as well as an additional 4,000 vests for members of the OPP. The survey also indicated that municipal and regional forces are overwhelmingly in favour of a central purchasing plan for the equipment. Accordingly, very soon, the government will call for tenders on the purchase of the protective vests in an effort to expedite their delivery to our police forces.

POLICE WEEK

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw to the honourable members' attention that next week is Canadian Police Week. I am sure that all the members of this Legislature are as gratified as I am that those men and women who serve us as police officers continue to enjoy such a high level of confidence from our citizens. I am also sure that all honourable members of this Legislature will join me in saying to all of those dedicated officers around the province, "Thank you for a job well done."

ORAL QUESTIONS

INTEREST RATES

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, may I inquire of the Premier; in view of his understandable desire to have a first ministers' meeting on the subject of inflation and, in particular, given the incredibly rapid rise in interest rates and the devastating impact this can have on various segments of Ontario's economy, may I ask the first minister of Ontario, as the representative of Canada's largest province, what he will be presenting as Ontario's view on the subject of these high interest rates?

Is it Ontario's view that these rates should be reduced and divorced totally from the American rates? Is it his view that the rates have to be, roughly speaking, where they are? What will he be saying at a first ministers' meeting?

10:20 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I have learned through some few years of experience not to predict what I might say at a first ministers' meeting. I think it is fair to state that if a first—

Mr. Peterson: What?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I do not predict what I might say. I sometimes say something I did not predict I was going to say at a first ministers' meeting. I would say to the member for London Centre I probably will not say anything with which he would agree.

Part of what I would say, I think, at a first ministers' meeting is that the government of Canada has partially created this situation by continued overspending and deficits, which has led to a weakened Canadian dollar, which has in turn forced the government of Canada to increase interest rates to make sure there is no flow of Canadian investment funds heading south of the border.

The member for London Centre knows full well that part of the problem relates to the monetary and fiscal policies of the Liberal government in the nation's capital. He knows that, and he can tell his brother that. He can tell any member of his family that. It happens to be true.

Mr. Peterson: I am telling my father-in-law to make it the Premier's problem too.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am not going to talk about the member's father-in-law today, unless he provokes me.

I would say to the Leader of the Opposition that the Treasury people and others are developing what we hope are some constructive ideas. I think it would be unrealistic to say that this country can totally divorce itself from what is happening in the United States. But at the same time, we have always argued that we do not have to go lockstep with the American fiscal or monetary decisions.

There is no question that the government in Washington is committed to the supply side of economic analysis, and that it is in the process of reducing money supply. No one is arguing whether it should or should not. The problem we face traditionally in this country is the determination by the government of Canada and the Bank of Canada, for a variety of reasons, to move more or less lockstep with the American financial policies.

Our views are that part of what should be done at this time with respect to inflation is educational. When I say educational, I do not mean pamphlets or communications to the schools, but a recognition by all citizens of this province and of this country that to a certain extent we have to reduce our demands. We have to understand that inflation is eroding not only the incomes of those people on fixed incomes

but the incomes of a lot of others. An educational or an understanding process, I think, would be helpful.

I think it is fair to state, and the Leader of the Opposition could accurately predict, that part of our submission to the government of Canada is that governments at all levels have to reduce their rates of expenditure. There is no question that this government, in spite of criticism from the members opposite, has taken a very significant step in the past four to five years to reduce our level of expenditure as it relates to the gross provincial product growth. And I think we have probably had more success than any other government in this country.

If, in fact, there is a first ministers' meeting, Ontario will go with many constructive suggestions. We are not suggesting it is any government's fault. There is no way one can assess this as being the responsibility of any single level of government, and it would be unrealistic to say that the solution lies in the hands of government alone. It is a much broader issue, one that concerns me very deeply.

While I am on my feet, before the Leader of Opposition asks a supplementary—I am trespassing on the rules of the House—I would like to introduce to the members of this Legislature two distinguished guests in the gallery: One, an employee of the public sector in Washington, the other, of the city of Chicago in the state of Illinois, Mr. Mackay and Mr. Larson. Incidentally, they happen to be my brothers-in-law who are in this community for another event later on today.

Mr. Smith: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: If that dissertation is what will be presented at the first ministers' conference, the Premier might not be surprised if such a conference is not called too rapidly.

May I ask the Premier, specifically, what he would propose for the small business sector in Ontario? When interest rates go up so rapidly, the large businesses are paying, effectively, half the interest rates, since their profits are such that they pay 50 per cent taxation in corporate taxes, but the small businesses, which are rarely at that taxation level, have to absorb the entire increase in interest rates, usually to the point where they cannot survive.

What specific measures will the Premier propose for Ontario's small business sector, which in many ways is, after all, the backbone of our economy, to help that sector resist the otherwise inexorable competition from the large business sector, which benefits during a time of high interest rates?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think we could have a lengthy discussion on this subject. It is perhaps unwise for the Leader of the Opposition to say that all people participating in the larger corporations are the beneficiaries of high interest rates. I question whether that is valid.

Mr. Smith: Compared to the small businessmen —

Hon. Mr. Davis: That is not what the member said. He said they were the beneficiaries. I really question whether that is the case.

In terms of the small business sector, once again I think it is fair to state that there are a number of "small businesses" which in fact are at that higher tax rate. Where the small business community is affected is in those areas where they have inventory or where they are operating as sole proprietors, and where it is very difficult for them to pass on the increased cost of the high interest rates to the consumers.

But I think it is very unwise to lump all small business into that category. It has an impact in varying degrees on the whole business community, on the farm community, on everyone. It is unwise to single out any particular sector.

Mr. Smith: They are going bankrupt.

Hon. Mr. Davis: With great respect, some are in very real difficulty. We do not minimize it. But I would say to the Leader of the Opposition, the main responsibility for interest policy is with the national government. It is with the government of Canada. I do not want to be provocative on this day in particular, but the member knows full well who runs the government of Canada. It is not the party with which I am associated. It is the party with which the member is associated; even though he did not bother to have the Prime Minister to breakfast during his campaign.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: The governor of the Bank of Canada and the federal Minister of Finance have both indicated in the last couple of days that they strongly support the policy of using high interest rates to fight inflation. Given the fact that the federal government is clearly stalling a first ministers' conference until after the economic summit in July, which will confirm that policy and lock it into the point where there is no way that any province can make a change in this country, is the Premier not contributing to this tactic by refusing to set out clearly the alternatives Ontario has to offer?

Does the Premier really have alternatives to offer, or is he just part of a tag team in Pierre Trudeau's wrestling match with inflation?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I will leave the wrestling up to the leader of the New Democratic Party. He has demonstrated so well how effective he is. I would only say to him that if there is a first ministers' meeting, Ontario will participate in a very constructive way.

I am not in a position to say to the leader of the New Democratic Party whether in fact there will be a first ministers' meeting. I have asked for it on two or three occasions, and so far have had no response.

Mr. Peterson: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Everyone recognizes that the harsh interest rate policy is a federal matter and that some of the recipients of that policy are in Ontario. The Premier has intervened before—for example, in the farm sector to some extent—to provide some relief for those people who have been hit so hard.

Given, in my judgement and other people's judgement, the emergency situation we are facing today with record high interest rates, why would the Premier not set aside a targeted emergency fund of a specified amount of money to help people who are having serious difficulty in renewing their mortgages and in small business? Why would he not set this aside on a short-term emergency basis because that is the nature of the dilemma we are in today? That is the nature of the crisis. The government has money for other things; it has money for pulp and paper. Surely a $50 million or $75 million or $25 million fund at this time in history is their responsibility.

10:30 a.m.

Those people who are being hurt are here in this province. Surely, the government should do something now in the short term, recognizing, of course, that if these high interest rates are structural, if we are going to have to live with them for the next few years, we will all have to adjust to that. In the short term now, over this summer, since it looks like an emergency, why can the government not do something? It is not that much money.

Mr. Cassidy: Talk to Pierre.

Mr. Peterson: Oh, shut up.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think the last part of the member's question was probably the most relevant part. I couldn't hear it from over here; I can only guess what was said.

I think the member for London Centre, perhaps more than some, has an understanding of interest rate subsidy policies, and of the potential inequities that would be created if we started moving into short-term policies of this nature.

Take the mortgage field, for instance. We introduce mortgage interest subsidies; for what period of time? Three months, four months? If we say to the lending institutions, "You will only lend for a year," what happens if there are rate changes in that period of time? What happens to those people who are taxpayers who ultimately have to pay for these subsidies?

I think there are some very real problems even in the business community. What has to be done in my view is to find ways and means of forcing or persuading the government of Canada to move on a national basis. I think it would be irresponsible for a single provincial government, for instance, to move across the board with respect to interest rates.

This Premier, before others, has registered concerns about inflation, which includes interest rates. We will continue to do so but we are not going to embark upon any sort of Band-Aid or ad hoc situation in order to resolve this problem.

NURSING HOME INFORMATION

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations: He made a statement today about consumer protection for the elderly. I wonder if he is aware that one of the services required most frequently by the elderly, often in a very emotional situation, is nursing home service.

Elderly people frequently have to be in nursing homes. Their relatives have to arrange nursing home care for them. Is the minister, as a consumer protector in the government, satisfied with the situation where it is absolutely impossible for the consumer or the potential consumer of that service to obtain information about the nursing home in question where he might wish to send the relative?

Is he satisfied with the situation where, for instance, the inspection reports on nursing homes in Ontario are kept secret? Not even a member of the Legislature is allowed to look at the inspection reports done by civil servants in Ontario. There is no rating system for nursing homes, no public information given out, and the consumers must act totally blindly and simply choose at random whatever nursing home happens to be willing to take the relative in. Is the minister satisfied with that situation?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, in the time that I have been minister in this department

and, in fact, in the eight years that I have been a member of the Legislature, I have never been asked for an inspection report about any particular nursing home from any constituent. Frankly, it seems to me it is a problem that most people can resolve on their own. Most people can see what they are getting. Most people go and see the actual facility, and one of the fortunate things in our society is that our nursing homes are wide open. All the people have to do is to go and visit them and they will see what they will get.

That seems to me to be one of the best measures of whether or not we have a properly operating nursing home. If the member was to come to my riding, I would simply take him around to each of the nursing homes. Indeed, during the election, I went through each one of them, room by room. I can tell him that the nursing homes in my riding are great. I suspect that if the Minister of Health were here today he would tell the Leader of the Opposition that, by and large, nursing homes in Ontario offer and afford a very good service to the elderly of this province. I do not think he should be criticizing the service in that way.

Mr. Smith: Is the minister unaware of the reports that have appeared monthly in the public press, detailing horror stories in various nursing homes? Has he ever tried to place relatives in nursing homes in various parts of Ontario?

Is he aware that just walking into a nursing home and looking around can hardly tell anyone what the level of care is or the competence of the employees, such as whether the employees are there at night or whether medicine happens to be left on bedside tables where people might take it inadvertently?

Simply walking in and looking around a nursing home hardly constitutes an inspection that tells one whether his relative is safe in such a home or whether there are qualified inspectors who inspect these homes twice a year.

Can the minister give a single, solitary reason why nursing home inspection reports in Ontario should remain a state secret unavailable either to consumers or to the members of this Legislature?

Hon. Mr. Walker: I can tell the Leader of the Opposition there are 367 nursing homes in this province, most of them operated by private enterprise and most of them doing a fine job. All one has to do is go and take a look at some of them. I think in this province we have a very good level of health care delivered to our elderly through the nursing homes.

He asks whether I have tried to get someone into a home. Of course I have. We all have had to try to get someone into a home and, by and large, most have been placed within a relatively reasonable period of time, given that sometimes lists are created that are not pure lists.

In spite of that, I think we can say that nursing homes in this province offer a level of care that would be the envy of jurisdictions throughout North America.

Mr. Cooke: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: I am sure the minister understands—perhaps he does not, since the Liberal Party did not understand either a year ago, when I introduced my private member's bill to make nursing homes nonprofit, charitable organizations—that the basic problem with nursing homes in this province is the fact they are in the private sector. It is the only area where we provide health care to our elderly, and we do it for a profit instead of putting care before service.

Since the minister and his government insist on keeping them in the private sector, and insist that competition is useful in the nursing home sector, I ask the minister how people can possibly shop around for the best nursing home and prove that competition does exist when they are not even allowed to look at the records to find out what staffing infractions there have been, to find out what infractions there have been for food supplies, and to find out what kind of recreation, social programs and physical rehabilitation is provided.

The minister has provided us with no rational reason why these reports should not be provided publicly, something my former colleague David Warner demanded for three years.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, why does the honourable member think he needs to have a report to go in and take a look at a place? If he has two eyes, if he can see lightning and hear thunder. It seems to me one can go in, look at a nursing home and see whether the floors are clean, whether the level of care is valid and whether the conduct and care is proper.

All one has to do is talk to some of the people in the nursing homes. I do not think there is one of the 367 nursing homes that would not admit one in a minute. I think even the member would be able to come out of one and figure out whether it was a pretty good place.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, if I can stand aside from the usual tone of this place, I think all members of the House will want to join me in congratulating the Premier on the event that I

understand is to take place today and will join with me in wishing well to his daughter and her new husband on the occasion of their wedding.

[Applause.]

10:40 a.m.

INTEREST RATES

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier with respect to interest rates and with respect to the policies announced and reiterated again, by both the federal Minister of Finance and the governor of the Bank of Canada, that they see high interest rates as the major tool to fight inflation.

Does the Premier endorse that policy on behalf of the federal government? Will the Premier indicate clearly, here in this House, that Ontario is fundamentally opposed to that suicidal, interest-rate policy, which is going to bankrupt our province if it is kept in force?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I do not purport to be an economist. The Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) has said, and I have said on a number of occasions, that we are not persuaded that the government of Canada and the Bank of Canada must of necessity follow the interest rate policies of the United States.

I am not going to argue in this House about the interest rate being the main tool in terms of money supplied. I do not think there is any question that this country, the United States and many other countries are faced with some very tough decisions about their economies at this moment. None of us should minimize the economic situation.

We in this government have never argued, though, that interest rates per se or tight money necessarily resolve the problem. On some occasions we see it as being somewhat counterproductive in that when you decrease money supply, you reduce consumer demand. Reduction of consumer demand then can have an impact on unemployment and that, to us, establishes a cycle that perhaps is not legitimate.

We are not going to be put in the position of endorsing the government of Canada's monetary policy. At the same time, I am not here to give any simplistic sort of answer as to how the situation might be resolved. If there is a meeting, we will have some constructive suggestions to offer, as I said at the outset.

While I am on my feet, and in the sort of magnanimous spirit of the day, may I say many happy returns to the leader of the New Democratic Party on his birthday, which is on Sunday, as I understand it.

Mr. Cassidy: I thank the Premier for his good wishes, but I would hate to see us stand too far aside from some of the things that have to be raised in this House.

If the Premier will not endorse the policy of the federal government with respect to interest rates, will he now repudiate that policy and indicate clearly that as far as Ontario is concerned the high interest rate policy is destructive in terms of the economy of this province?

The excess economic growth that the governor of the Bank of Canada keeps on talking about is not a reality in this province, and we will not be able to grow, to look after the people of this province or to finance needed social and public services unless Canada and Ontario turn clearly away from the ruinous interest rate policy that the federal government is now imposing on us.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I will make my answer very brief. We recognize that the high interest rate policy is having a negative effect on a large number of people in this province, yes.

But, while I am on my feet, I must also say one should not always look at the gloomy side during this period of high interest rate policies. The figures were out yesterday. The labour force in this province is up over that of April 1980 by some 87,000 people, which is very close to the 100,000 that we always keep using. Our unemployment rate is down. Seasonally adjusted, it is now down to 6.2 per cent, which is some 1.4 per cent below the national level.

I just thought, in case the member missed the figures yesterday, he would like an update as to the economic situation here in Ontario.

Mr. Mancini: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: How can the Premier stand in this House and make these appalling and hypocritical statements, that he and his government can do absolutely nothing to relieve the plight of small businessmen, and especially that of home owners now facing the difficulties of renewing their mortgages, by saying that he and his government can do nothing for them, when back on September 11, 1975, he stated very clearly that he and his government had a policy to help home owners to keep their homes by an interest subsidy program that was outlined on that day in a very lengthy speech? Why can he not implement the program, which has been ready since 1975?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I must compliment the honourable member. He obviously pays a lot of attention to the speeches I make.

I happen to have a copy of the same speech. I remember it, of course, without a copy of the speech, but in case I have forgotten, it reads: "If, however, the federal government fails to respond within 30 days, Ontario will have no option but to act once again in our own best interests."

I think it is fair to state that it extends a little bit beyond the 30 days but, in response to our suggestions and as a result of this, in 1975 the federal government of Canada introduced the modified assisted home ownership program. The member may be too young to remember it, but they did. The federal government also introduced the assisted home rental program, it extended capital cost allowances to the end of 1977, and it included a land incentive grant. All were parts of the amendment to the National Housing Act in 1975 which came about as a direct result of the speech I made and the member is now reading so carefully some six years later.

HOUSING PRICES

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I have a new question to the Premier which relates to what Ontario can do to affect one group who were particularly hard hit by the combined impact of the increase in mortgage interest rates and the increase in speculation that is taking place in housing across the province right now.

I draw to the Premier's attention a couple of recent examples from the Metropolitan Toronto area: a home on Spruce Street which rose by $33,000 in the course of six months, and a home on Montrose Avenue which rose by $18,500 in five months, both of them increasing in price at the rate of 66 per cent per annum.

Since this is within Ontario's competence, will the Premier now undertake to protect legitimate home buyers who simply want shelter and a roof over their heads by bringing in a land speculation tax that will drive out the speculators and the speculative activity in the market so that people who want to have a roof over their head for shelter will be able to get it and not be priced out of the market?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I know the member from Ottawa Centre is disappointed that the minister of municipal affairs and housing is not here to give him a reply. However, I will try to recall what the Minister of Housing said to the leader of the third party in relation to the same question yesterday. If the leader of the third party wants to ask it again, I will repeat it.

The Minister of Housing made it abundantly clear that there are many communities where affordable housing is available. I happen to live in one where there are some. If the leader of the third party wants to come out this weekend—not tonight, but some time Saturday or Sunday—I will take him around to show him some of those homes. They are great homes that are available at figures we believe are affordable.

I think it is also fair to state that, in terms of the interest rate policy which we object to, one of the ironies may be that it may dampen speculation in the housing industry. I do not think there is any question but that will be one of the impacts. I am not saying it is justified because of that, but there is no question that will take some of the heat out of the speculation that may be going on.

I should also point out to the honourable member that we had a land speculation tax at one point. I think it is fair to state that in terms of some areas of speculation, particularly on those fringe areas where development was taking place, it had perhaps a short-term effect; it is very hard to measure. The problem that confronts government is that if you introduce a land speculation tax related only to residential housing, say, I think that would be unfair to a lot of people who are making a legitimate capital appreciation related to the rate of inflation.

I think to move in because—I believe this—there is a short-term speculative market in some areas is really no solution. To make it very clear, the government at this moment really is not contemplating a land speculation tax as it would relate to residential accommodation.

Mr. Cassidy: Given the number of voices saying, in response to the suggestions for a land speculation tax, that a speculation tax would deaden or dampen the market and therefore would not be good for their kind of business, is it not true that what the government is really saying is that when it comes to choosing between the people who are involved in speculation, the people in real estate industry, and the interests of ordinary citizens who want to have a home, the Premier has lined up with the speculators and against the interests of people who want to have a home of their own?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I know it is lovely rhetoric for the leader of the New Democratic Party to use, but he does not believe it himself. I think it is fair to state that very recently it has been demonstrated conclusively that one reason this party did so well, one reason we are here and they are over there, is that we have never aligned ourselves with any particular group, unlike them. The ordinary people voted for this

party on March 19. They will vote for it again four years hence because of the sensitivity of this government.

Mr. Ruprecht: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: The Premier has said something very interesting in terms of how to fight inflation and high interest rates. He indicated that the way to do it was to have an education policy established in this province. He said earlier that we should tell our people how to spend their pennies. Is this going to be government policy, or does the Premier have something else in mind? Is he going to go around personally from school to school and tell us how to spend our money? What precisely is he going to do, as he indicated earlier?

10:50 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell) was right in his assessment of the new member for Parkdale, who asks such a simplistic and rather facetious and satirical question. That is not what I said. He knows it and can smile in the back row, but I have a little friendly advice for him: if he really wants to contribute in a meaningful sense, he should ask a positive, construction question and I will give him a positive, constructive answer.

The reality is that no one ever contemplated going around to the schools, although I take great delight in it. I would be delighted to hear from the Liberal Party of Ontario as they develop their new policies for the 1980s, as they become more "liberal," as I read in one publication.

How do you become more liberal? The honourable members over there tried to convince the Globe and Mail they were becoming more conservative; now they are trying to convince others they are becoming more liberal. I will be delighted to see whatever policy emerges, knowing full well that whatever it is next week, it will be different four weeks later.

CHILD-REARING BENEFITS

Mr. Peterson: I have a question for the Premier, Mr. Speaker. The Premier will recall that in 1977 the federal government proposed the child-rearing dropout provision for the Canada pension plan, which, to refresh his memory, would have allowed women to drop out of the labour force for a period of up to seven years to raise their children so they would not lose any pension benefits. It has been estimated that the absence of that provision costs women up to 22 per cent of their pension benefits later on.

Ontario vetoed that suggestion. Subsequent to that, Quebec and seven other provinces agreed to include the so-called child-rearing dropout provision. The Premier's response then was that he would wait for the report of the Haley commission. The Haley commission report is down now and it says very clearly: "The government of Ontario should approve the amendment of the CPP for the child-rearing dropout provision as now legislated to take effect without delay."

Why does the Premier not institute that today? It would be good for all the women of this province, including his daughter, who is getting married today, and she would celebrate this great event with him.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that my daughter at this moment in time is totally aware of the provisions of the pension programs in this province.

The Haley report is a matter that will be discussed, I hope with some degree of thoroughness and interest, by members of this House. There may be some recommendations the government may decide to move on in the interim, but I would really like to reserve that until the select committee is appointed and it starts it work. I am fully aware of the recommendation in the report.

Mr. Peterson: There are a number of provisions in the Haley report that do not need a select committee to look at them. Obviously there are a number of complicated questions. But surely this is one, and an important one; it is an important symbol to the other provinces. If the Premier effectively held up the veto across this country, he would affect women not only here but also right across this country.

It can be done today. It is simple and all it needs is for the Premier to say, "Yes." Why does he not do that now? It is an important start towards pension reform, which we all recognize is a massive problem for this country. Start there now.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I appreciate the views from the member for London Centre, and I have certainly filed them away. I understand what he is saying.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Is it not true that the reason the government resisted that amendment to the Canada pension plan in 1977, and the reason it continues to resist it, is that the Conservative Party of Ontario has yet to understand that women want economic equality in Ontario, that they are in the work

place to stay and that they should be treated as such, rather than being relegated to the kitchen?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think the leader of the New Democratic Party was totally unsuccessful in trying to inspire some provocative debate here this morning. This party fully understands all of those realities and has been supportive of them—

Mr. Smith: You vetoed it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We did not agree to go along with it at that point. We did not veto it.

Mr. Speaker: May I interrupt question period for a moment and ask all members to join me in welcoming to this House the chairman of the public accounts committee of South Australia, Mr. Heini Becker.

[Applause.]

ASBESTOSIS BENEFITS

Mr. R.F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. The minister is no doubt aware of the rumours of the impending closure of the Johns-Manville plant in Scarborough and the cloud of fear that is therefore hanging over the workers there. My question concerns the present and future widows of Johns-Manville who live under this cloud.

The minister will recall that too many months passed before Mrs. John Dodds finally received support, even though the immediate cause of death was not the asbestosis that crippled Mr. Dodds. How is it then that the widow of Mr. Herb Barney, another asbestosis victim, who received compensation when alive, has received no support even though Mr. Barney died in October 1980?

Is the minister convinced that settlement of cases of this kind is being carried out expeditiously, sensitively and generously?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I must tell the member in all honesty that I am not personally aware of any impending closure of the Johns-Manville plant but, if it is so, I will be glad to explore that. Nor am I aware of the particular case the member has told me about, but I think he will agree that the ultimate decision reached by the appeal board in the John Dodds case reflects the capacity to evaluate problems fairly and equitably.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I hope it will also be a matter of precedent. We dealt with that one behind the scenes. I think it is time we got this issue out in the public.

How does the minister explain what has gone on in this case, that Dr. Ritchie has not yet filed his report on the causes of Mr. Barney's death after eight months? What kind of sensitivity has been shown by Workmen's Compensation Board workers who one week sent a letter to me as Mrs. Barney's representative telling me that Dr. Ritchie's report was in and there was no connection in the death; then a week later sent me another letter telling me, "We have made a slight error; that report is not in, so we are unable to tell you." And now, a month and a half later, I have still not received a report on the results of Dr. Ritchie's report?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, and I say this with the greatest of respect, if members intend to put questions seriously and want a serious response, I suggest they let me know ahead of time. The member knows very well that I have no information available about that specific case. So if the member means it, will he let me know about it and we can have a meaningful discussion; otherwise, I say to him, do not do that stuff.

RESIGNATION OF UTDC CONSULTANT

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Is the minister aware that an Oakville-based company by the name of Connor Development Services Limited has just resigned and given up a $140,000 contract with a subsidiary of Urban Transportation Development Corporation? The reason for the resignation is, and I quote: "We can no longer continue with a project which does not do justice to the people of Hamilton and the region and to principles of sound public participation."

Is the minister aware of the resignation, and can he explain why the position of Connor Development Services Limited was reiterated by Ainslie Hector, the co-chairman of the community advisory committee on the UTDC project in Hamilton, who says, "We are just sick to lose Mr. Connor, but it is something that had to be said."

Hon. Mr. Snow: No, Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any such resignation. I will look into the matter and get an explanation of the reason.

Ms. Copps: If, as is stated in the Hamilton Spectator of yesterday, Connor Development Services Limited—an Oakville-based company, I would add—has completed successfully and

with no problems three other major transportation studies in Hamilton, why is there a problem with this study?

Will the minister come back to this House with assurances that the UTDC is not going to be another project swept under the rug or given to Hamilton as a guinea pig?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I have no idea where the honourable member would get information that would give her any grounds to make such a ridiculous statement. I have to admit that the Hamilton Spectator is not usually my favourite reading, but I will try to get hold of a copy. I do not happen to be familiar with the firm the member has mentioned as being a firm from my constituency, but I will become more familiar with it.

11 a.m.

DREDGING CASE

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I have a positive and constructive question for the Premier which relates to a little unfinished business.

On April 6, the Supreme Court of Canada denied the appeals of Harold McNamara and Sidney Cooper with respect to their conviction in the harbour dredging case. The Premier will undoubtedly recall a statement that he made in the House on July 8, 1977:

"I must say, Mr. Speaker, that I am looking forward to the opportunity of sharing the contents of Mr. Justice Campbell Grant's report with the members opposite on the first occasion that it is available to me as Premier of this province. I intend to share that information with all of those honourable members who are interested."

I want the Premier to know of my continuing interest. May we have the report?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I will discuss it with the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry). There may still be some legal problems. But I note the honourable member's interest.

PROVINCIAL RAIL POLICY

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Has the minister taken the time to review the report of the Ontario Task Force on Provincial Rail Policy? If so, has he decided which of the nearly 200 recommendations are going to be given priority status, what the time frame for implementation will be and what the cost to the Ontario taxpayers will amount to?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, as you and the member well know, the task force report, which is excellent and went into great depth in looking at all matters relating to rail transportation in the province, was presented to me about a week ago. The complete report is being assessed and reviewed by the senior officials in my ministry. As I believe I said in a statement a week ago, I will be reporting back to the House in due course on the action we intend to take on the many recommendations.

As the honourable member knows, some of the recommendations in that report fall under provincial jurisdiction, but many do not. We wanted that information so that we could make representations to the other jurisdictions.

Mr. Mancini: Why does the minister feel that the senior people in his ministry have to review the task force report, when it states very clearly in the first few pages that his deputy minister, Mr. Gilbert, was a member of the task force? Does the minister not feel that when the cabinet commissions a $300,000 report, it should list, in priority fashion, what needs to be done and what the cost will be?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I am well aware that my deputy minister was a member of that task force; so were other deputy ministers from the government and some very knowledgeable outside people.

As I said, the report has been received. I find from experience that when one gets a report that has a large number of recommendations, the recommendations can usually be sorted out into about three groups: those that can be implemented quickly and without too much difficulty; those that take additional study, research and costing; and there is usually a group of recommendations that are not acceptable to the government.

We are following the same procedure that we followed with regard to the reports of the select committee on highway safety, the select committee on highway transportation of goods and many other such reports.

We are in the process of reviewing the report at this time. The fact that my deputy minister was a member of the task force does not make the total report a fait accompli. We do not automatically say we are going to do everything that is recommended.

COASTAL INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial

Relations. Is the minister aware of a Bermuda-based company named Coastal International, whose shares are traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange? Is he aware that the prospectus for this company states the success of the company depends on its ability to deal with suppliers that other companies are precluded from dealing with because of US anti-boycott legislation?

Does the minister feel that, even though we introduced our own anti-boycott legislation in Ontario in 1978, the Discriminatory Business Practices Act, this company should be allowed by the Ontario Securities Commission to sell its shares to Canadian shareholders?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the matter involving Coastal International, which is a Bermuda-based company. That company has been before the Ontario Securities Commission with its prospectus. The Ontario Securities Commission has given an opinion on the specific clause that restricts sales to American citizens. They have ruled on that clause and said it does not actually contravene the provisions of the Discriminatory Business Practices Act.

As well, some concerns have been expressed by a number of solicitors in Toronto who have brought the matter directly to the attention of the Ontario Securities Commission. Its chairman, Mr. H. J. Knowles, has replied to one of them that he would be prepared, under section 63 of the act, to conduct a public hearing on the matter as a question of public interest. All the particular lawyers need do is make application to him and that matter will be decided by the Ontario Securities Commission. However, its specific view was that it did not contravene the Discriminatory Business Practices Act.

There is provision under the act for the argument raised by these lawyers that the matter should be addressed as being contrary to the public interest of the citizens of Ontario. The OSC is prepared, under that act, to address the matter on the question of public interest.

Mr. Philip: Since the minister mentioned opinions expressed by certain lawyers, does he agree with the opinion expressed to him by one lawyer, Mr. Irv Kumer, a person who until recently held a high office in his ministry, who stated in a letter to him that Ontario could become a haven to evade the US anti-boycott legislation? What is the minister prepared to do to avoid a discriminatory company of that type operating in this province?

Did I hear the minister suggest public hearings would be held by the Ontario Securities Commission to see whether it was in the public interest to have this company trading on the Toronto Stock Exchange? In the common interest the government or the Ontario Securities Commission already could have ceased trading under section 61, 62 or 63, I believe, of the act.

Hon. Mr. Walker: I gave the wrong number of the section of the act. It is section 123. That is a question of whether there should be a cease and desist order issued to Coastal International in respect of trading on the Toronto Stock Exchange. Mr. Knowles, the chairman, has indicated he is prepared to hold a hearing on the public interest section to determine that.

It is rather interesting that under the American boycott legislation, which is far more severe than the Ontario act, the Securities and Exchange Commission itself has ruled that specific section does not contravene its particular act. If the Americans do not consider it contravenes their act, when they have a somewhat toothier piece of legislation, I wonder if we would have the same view.

11:10 a.m.

I am prepared to read a letter. I think it is appropriate and will answer many of the member's concerns. Perhaps I can put this on the record. It is a letter addressed to Mr. Norman May, a lawyer with the Toronto law firm of Gordon, Traub and Rotenburg, and is dated April 21, 1981. It is from the vice-chairman of the Ontario Securities Commission and specifically addresses that question. It reads:

"Dear Mr. May:

"Re: Coastal International Limited

"In the absence of the chairman, I have for acknowledgement your letter of April 16, 1981. I am familiar with the matter. Your request was considered today by a panel of the commission. We have been unable to conclude on the basis of your letter that any ground exists for the commission to initiate action of its own accord under the Securities Act.

"The concerns expressed by you appear to be based on the extensive disclosure made in the prospectus that this Bermuda company, Coastal International, was organized to engage in certain business activities which were unavailable to its promoter, the Coastal Corporation, because of United States anti-boycott legislation. Similar disclosure has been made in a prospectus filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, through which the shares of Coastal International were distributed, as dividends, to the United States shareholders of the Coastal Corporation. Despite the proposed activities of

Coastal International, this distribution was not prohibited or prevented by the SEC nor, so far as we are aware, by any other US regulatory authority.

"Under the circumstances, since the United States had not objected to the distribution of securities of Coastal International to its citizens, there appears to have been no grounds for the director or his staff to refuse to issue a receipt for the prospectus on public policy grounds.

"Turning to the point raised through (c) in your letter, we find it difficult to accept the suggestion that the Discriminatory Business Practices Act is intended to require underwriters to sell securities other than in compliance with applicable laws. For instance, as you are no doubt aware, it is common practice to restrict the distribution of securities to residents of those jurisdictions where they may lawfully be offered for sale, frequently to Canadian residents only and not to residents of the United States.

"I would repeat the chairman's earlier invitation to make an application under the Securities Act if you deem such an application appropriate."

It is signed H. S. Bray, QC, vice-chairman of the Ontario Securities Commission. I think that addresses the question the honourable member has raised.

Mr. Renwick: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Since the administration of the Discriminatory Business Practices Act does not fall under the Ontario Securities Commission, will the minister direct the question to the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), who has a personal and specific interest in the Discriminatory Business Practices Act, to ask him for his opinion on the very question on which this whole question hinges, with the request that if, in the opinion of the Attorney General, it does not preclude the filing of that prospectus here, will the Attorney General or the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Relations introduce legislation to ensure that it will?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, the Discriminatory Business Practices Act, 1978, falls within my jurisdiction, and not within the jurisdiction of the Attorney General. The Attorney General may have an opinion on it. The member for Riverdale will have to ask him that.

CAYUGA LANDFILL SITE

Mr. G. I. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier. Is the Premier aware that the land where the proposed industrial waste site has been proposed is class one and class two land? If he is not, I would like to send him my copy from the University of Guelph indicating that.

Now that a panel has been established for preliminary hearings, and the minister has indicated that this will guarantee an even fuller opportunity for examination of the safety of this site and the technology than might be possible under the Environmental Assessment Act, and since this act has been set aside to protect all the people of Ontario, will he include in the criteria for that panel to look at other sites around Ontario that were established by the MacLaren report back in July 1980?

Thirdly, when they are advertising for the hearing that is going to be held in Dunnville on May 28, will he include the local press so that the local people will be aware of the hearing procedure?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think there were three questions. The first was whether I was aware of something. If the honourable member wishes to send me his communication from the University of Guelph, I will pass it on to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Norton).

The second question, which was really the third, was whether we would advertise in the local paper. I think that could be accommodated.

The remaining question was whether we would be prepared to investigate several other sites. I think the honourable member knows that this is one of the problems in the legislation, and that we are going to have a hearing related to this particular site.

The member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) indicated on his return from an instructive visit around the world to investigate similar facilities that he would be delighted to have it in his riding; at least, that is the report I got. None the less, in spite of that offer, the hearing will proceed with respect to that particular site.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Is the Premier aware that Alberta, in a similar situation, gave the people of Alberta the opportunity of input by looking at many sites around the province before making a decision? That might be a worthwhile practice.

I will send over three copies of the land classification for the area: one for the Premier himself, one for the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Henderson) and one for the Minister of the Environment. I will also invite the Minis-

ter of the Environment to come down and acquaint himself with the area so that he will know exactly what he is talking about.

My leader and the leader of the third party took the opportunity of coming down to the site, but I do not believe the Premier or the Minister of the Environment ever had the opportunity of looking at the site.

Mr. Speaker: Does the member have a question?

Mr. G. I. Miller: Yes. Will the Premier or the minister visit the site?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Ask the minister.

Ms. Bryden: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: I want to ask the Premier whether, before the May 28 hearings start on the South Cayuga site, he will consider changing the order in council setting up the hearings, because of the unsatisfactory arrangement whereby the Ontario Waste Management Corporation is both the proponent and the judge in the case. It seems to me that is a very unsatisfactory kind of hearing.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, these matters are very complex. The government will make sure the hearing is conducted in such a way that the citizens in that part of the province will know that it is being properly held, that the information is there and that it is understood. With great respect, I doubt that there will be any change in the order in council.

PITS AND QUARRIES CONTROLS

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope), perhaps I can direct my question to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development.

Can he tell me whether the Minister of Natural Resources is planning to reintroduce Bill 127 or some other form of comprehensive pits and quarries bill that would give adequate environment protection and provide for rehabilitation revenue to prevent the continuation of the tremendous damage that has been done to this province by the aggregate producers?

Secondly, can he tell me whether this government will respect the recommendation made by the standing committee on resources development last fall not to proceed with the notorious resources planning policy of the cabinet, which would have given the province away to the aggregate industry?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, in answer to the honourable member's first question, it is my understanding that the Minister of Natural Resources is reviewing Bill 127.

With respect to the member's second question, I would have to review the minutes of that resources development committee. I will do that and get back to him the first of the week.

Mr. Swart: The provincial secretary did not state whether Bill 127, the comprehensive bill, will be reintroduced. May I ask if he has any knowledge whether the bill will be one that will merely amend the Band-Aid bill to the present pits and quarries act? And can I remind him of the devastating condemnation of his government, with regard to the operation of the pits and quarries and the inadequacy of the act, which was contained in the report of the Ontario Mineral Aggregate Working Party of Ontario when it reported that, owing to the lack of specifications and regulations and other omissions in drafting, the act is difficult—

11:20 a.m.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Swart, is that part of your question?

Mr. Swart: Yes, it is part of my question.

Mr. Speaker: Will you state it that way?

Mr. Swart: Will the provincial secretary remind the minister of this report so that we will have an adequate bill introduced to deal with a very serious problem that exists in this province?

Mr. Speaker: The time for oral questions has expired.

Mr. Swart: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Will you take into consideration allowing ministers to reply to any questions or supplementaries that are asked? It was the practice of the previous Speaker to do that, even though it may have gone a minute or two over the question period. There is not much point in asking a supplementary or a question if an answer is not going to be permitted. Will you take that under advisement?

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member will remember what I said yesterday about extending the question period. And I just draw to the attention of all honourable members that if they are going to ask a question they should make it brief and to the point; they should ask the minister specifically what they want to know, and not make a speech. For all the members' information, this morning the question period has gone over by a full two minutes.

Mr. Mancini: That is because the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Walker) was so long in one of his answers. You didn't chastise him for his answer.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am not chastising anybody. I am just bringing it to the attention of the honourable members that I am indeed being extremely fair in allowing the questions to be asked.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE
(continued)

Resumption of the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Charlton: Mr. Speaker, I want to start out by passing my congratulations and best wishes to you in your new role as Speaker as well as to the new Deputy Speaker and the new deputy chairman of the committee of the whole House. I wish you all the best in your endeavours in trying to control this quite often unruly crowd. I hope you will consult with the procedural affairs committee, which has been a very active committee of this Legislature over the last four or five years, concerning problems that you may encounter.

I want to start out today by spending a few minutes talking about the campaign, as a number of others have done in their comments on the throne speech. I have noticed in a number of people's comments from the other side that new members, back-benchers, have taken offence at the comments from this side of the House, both from the Liberal Party and from this party, about the arrogance that is being displayed on the part of that government.

Some of the speakers have made an effort to try to say that there is no arrogance on the back benches, and that may very well be true. It certainly does not relate to the difference between the kind of government we had when the governing party on that side of the House was in a minority, where they were forced to sit down and talk reasonably about issues, and the kind of attitude that is displayed at present. I do not see any other way to define that kind of attitude except as arrogance, and I will talk about a number of aspects of that just briefly.

In my riding the campaign on the part of the government was very negative and very destructive in a number of ways. One of the approaches that the Tory candidate took in my riding was to say to the people of the riding: "Look, if you want to get anything for Hamilton, if you want to get anything for the riding, you have to have a government member. If you want to get patted on the back, if you want favours, you have to have somebody on the government side of the House or you will not get anything."

That is a very negative approach. It is a slur, in fact, on the whole democratic process, because in this parliamentary system the democratic process is made up of government and opposition, as you well know, Mr. Speaker. Both sides of the House, both the government party and the opposition parties, are a valid, integral and important part of the whole democratic process. You obviously understand that much better than did the government party candidate in my riding.

What that comment really means is that, if any riding in the province has other than a member of the government party, that riding cannot expect to be dealt with fairly, honestly and straightforwardly by the governing party. That is just not acceptable in the political democratic process that we are supposed to represent.

What that whole process reflects is a very cynical view of the political process by the Premier (Mr. Davis) and by the members of the government party—perhaps not all of them, but at least those who are seasoned campaigning Tories. What it really reflects is an ability on the part of this government to trade on and promote the kind of cynicism out there in the public about politicians that has been growing fairly rapidly over the last 10 or 15 years. It is an inability on the part of the government to understand why that cynicism is developing.

By that process of attempting to blackmail voters into voting for the government to protect their own interests in a pork-barrel kind of environment, the government is feeding a cynicism and a misunderstanding on the part of the public about the real reason we are here and what we are supposed to be accomplishing.

The funny part of the whole process, if there is any funny part in it at all, is that the Tory candidate in my riding was wrong. We watched the Premier and cabinet ministers of the government run around the province making promises and writing cheques in ridings. A number of other members, both in the Liberal Party and in my own party, have talked about that. But the reality is that, instead of proving what the Tory candidate in my riding suggested, that you must have a government member to get anything for your riding, the process worked in reverse.

For the most part, the promises that were made and the cheques that the Premier and the

cabinet ministers wrote, the goodies that were handed out during the campaign, were handed out in areas or ridings where the government did not hold the seats. The government was there trying to buy those seats back by promising or handing to the people of those areas something that the government felt was significant enough to warrant or attract support in those areas, as opposed to overall provincial programs, which I think most of us would much prefer to see in the way of election promises during a campaign.

Strangely, the people in those areas of the province that have been staunchly and solidly Tory for ever and ever got very little in the way of promises and handouts during the campaign. The people who benefited the most were those in the areas where the government felt it had a chance of winning opposition seats. In some cases, obviously, they accomplished that. But it is a very cynical and negative process, and it certainly does not serve the democracy that we are supposed to represent and that we are supposed to attempt to keep vibrant and viable in Ontario.

11:30 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, I hope through you to suggest to the members of the government party, and perhaps even to the Premier, that in future the government party take a little more positive approach to government versus opposition and to recognize and admit publicly the necessity of having two sides in the parliamentary process and to try to help us and the members of the other opposition party to diminish that cynicism, that disbelief in the political process that is growing out there in the public.

The Liberal candidate in my riding was a very good, honest and straightforward gentleman who tried to fight the election on issues for the most part. I congratulate him on the straightforward nature of his campaign, even though we disagreed on a number of the issues that we discussed.

But the government candidate did not seem to want to deal with issues very much at all. In fact, on one occasion during the campaign he went so far as to accuse one of the organizers of an all-candidates meeting of attempting to blackmail him because he did not want to attend the meeting, because the issues that were going to be discussed were issues he did not want to have to confront. He actually accused this person of blackmail because she said the press was going to be there and they wanted him there in order to represent the government's view.

That does not seem to me to be blackmail. It seems to me to be a perfectly legitimate request from voters in the constituency that the representative of all the parties make themselves available for comments. It was a very negative and, again, cynical response on the part of the government candidate to label this as blackmail and fly off the handle just because he did not want to deal with the specific issue that was at question at that public meeting.

I am not sure what the reasons were, but for whatever reasons the government candidate in my riding decided that he could not attack me and he could not attack issues in our campaign so he chose instead, along with many of the people who worked in this campaign, to stomp around the riding making ridiculous comments like: "You cannot vote for Mr. Charlton. His leader, Mr. Cassidy, is a loser just like Joe Clark." That became the standing joke of the campaign in my riding. It seemed almost unbelievable that a former Conservative federal member who served under Mr. Clark could take that kind of an approach to campaigning in an election campaign.

I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker—I am not sure because I have never worked with Joe Clark; Mr. Beatty may have been correct—Joe Clark may, in fact, be a loser, but I want members to understand clearly that there is no member of this caucus and especially not the member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) who can ever be compared in any way to Mr. Clark and his problems.

I want to talk today, Mr. Speaker, about two basic areas which have now become my responsibility as a critic for this caucus. I want to talk a bit in the area of the environment, I want to talk a bit in the area of the Ministry of Revenue.

I will start out in the Ministry of the Environment. There are basically three things I have chosen to talk about here. I have chosen these three because each of them demonstrates something a little different in terms of this government's approach to the environment in Ontario. Each of them demonstrates something important in terms of some of the lacks, some of the inabilities on the part of this government to deal with the environment in the province.

I want to start out with a subject that relates to the Keating Channel right here in Toronto and to a question I asked in the House yesterday of the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Norton)—a question to which I got a very confusing and unacceptable answer.

The situation is that the Keating Channel is presently being dredged, allegedly in order to

avoid flooding on the Don River. There is very serious concern out there about the sediments on the bottom of the Keating Channel that have accumulated over a number of years. Those sediments contain, and are fairly heavily contaminated with, heavy metals, oil, grease, PCBs and a number of other toxic substances, the kind of substances we have read about in the media fairly regularly over the past four or five years and which we have debated fairly regularly over the past four or five years. They are substances that all of us have come to know and to fear and to work hard to find a way to avoid or dispose of properly.

We are in a situation with the Keating Channel where this contaminated muck on the bottom of the channel, some say, has to be removed in order to avoid flooding. Others say it is dangerous to remove it, to stir it up at all. The government has agreed to an environmental assessment under the Environmental Assessment Act. Unfortunately, they have decided to allow the dredging to continue while the environmental assessment goes on.

After the issue was raised here last fall and after a rather hectic debate in this House and in the media and at city council and at the Metro level in Toronto, the Premier agreed, as a result of a letter written to him by Dr. Chant—a gentleman who is now involved with the South Cayuga situation, but who at that time was on the committee that dealt with the Environmental Assessment Act. He wrote to the Premier saying it was imperative—maybe I had better quote him exactly instead of paraphrasing him: "It is imperative that a hearing of this specific issue should be held as soon as possible and before any irrevocable approvals are given to the request for exemptions under the Environmental Assessment and Environmental Protection acts."

He asked the Premier for a public hearing so that the issue of allowing the dredging to continue while the environmental assessment was going on could be publicly dealt with and the problems associated with allowing that dredging to continue could be dealt with publicly and the pros and cons aired. At this point we are not even sure what all the dangers involved are. No one is sure, including the Ministry of the Environment and the government. Dr. Chant made that recommendation. The Premier said, "I concur with Dr. Chant's recommendations and I will ensure that an inquiry comes about."

Now we find that an inquiry commissioner has been appointed and an inquiry will occur—a private one, though—where the conservation authority and the harbour commission will be the proponents of the dredging, and the opponents out there will be allowed to make submissions to the commissioner as well. But they will not be in a position to know what the harbour commission or the conservation authority have said in support of the proposal. They will not be able to cross-examine and they will not be able to respond effectively to whatever is being said by the proponents.

That seems to me to be an absolutely ludicrous situation in the light of the comments that have been made here in the last few days about openness and public information. We are in a situation where, by the time the environmental assessment is finished, if the dredging is allowed to continue, somewhere between two thirds and three quarters of the job will be completed.

11:40 a.m.

None of us knows at this point what the environmental assessment will conclude. If that assessment concludes the dredging should not be done, that environmental damage may come from dredging, both to the channel itself and to the Toronto harbour where the filth is going to be dumped, with the possibility of affecting the city's drinking water; if it concludes—and none of us knows at this point what it will conclude—that the environmental damage from that process is too risky, or possibly too damaging, the damage will already have been done to the greatest degree because between two thirds and three quarters of the dredging will already have been completed.

We have had a number of back-bench members from that party speaking to this House in this debate in the last few days talking about the serious commitment on the part of this government to continue to look after the best interests of the people of Ontario. Does the process I have just described sound like a government that is serious about protecting the best interests of the people in Toronto? It certainly does not to me.

Yesterday afternoon and last evening in his response to the throne speech, the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves) gave a very good speech. I think it was a little naive, but it was very good none the less. He went on at some length concerning the issue of acid rain. The views he expressed in terms of the problem and the views he expressed in terms of what has to be done to solve the problem were for the most part positive and supportable.

Unfortunately, in his efforts as a member who was not here through all the debates we had in this House, I think he was a little naive in his approach to defending the government's record on acid rain and cleaning up the acid rain mess in Ontario. I want to take a few minutes to run through some of that and perhaps, Mr. Speaker, since he is not here this morning, you can refer him to Hansard so he can sit and think a little more seriously about the government's record and, perhaps, instead of finding himself an entirely frustrated and disillusioned member of the government party a year from now down the road, he can sit down and see what has gone on in the past.

Perhaps because he is a member of the government party he can fight within the party's structure to see that, in terms of acid rain, things happen a little more positively on that side of the House instead of the kind of lack-lustre, negative approach that has gone on over there.

It may be true that in some ways Ontario is better off than some other jurisdictions, but that is in no way an excuse for the kinds of things that have happened in Ontario, the kinds of things that potentially still will happen. The comment has been made a number of times, and the member for Parry Sound made the comment again yesterday, that we cannot solve our own acid rain problem because so much of the problem comes from south of the border.

That may well be true in scientific terms and in terms of fact, but I recall in 1979 when the then Minister of the Environment of Ontario, Mr. Parrott, said the fight against acid rain will fail if we try to take on that fight alone. That comment was repeated again yesterday by the member in question.

The then Minister of the Environment said again in October 1979 he would not push the fight against acid rain because he felt it was unfair to make demands of industry in Ontario when it would not solve the problem anyway. When various reports were released on the extent of the damage being done by acid rain, in almost every instance this government and its Environment minister would start out by denying the results of the report. Then, as other experts confirmed what the report was saying, the government would finally sit down and admit that perhaps there was something in that report.

One of the reports in question was released in the fall of 1979. For the first time, it said that, yes, a lot of our acid rain pollution comes from the United States, but that a lot of it is generated right here at home. Significantly, that was one of the things that the member for Parry Sound missed yesterday in his speech.

If he thinks the government of Ontario's record on the fight against acid rain is a good one, then I suggest that he go upstairs to the library and go through some of the press reports and the Hansards to see what is going on in this House. When there are headlines like, "8,000 Lakes Dying As Ontario Stalls," that is not a good record. That is not an indication that this government has taken a positive and aggressive approach in the fight against acid rain.

The whole debate about whether or not we can solve the problem in Ontario is an effort to sidetrack the issue. How can the federal government of this country expect to convince the Americans that they should clean up their act if we have not been effective with the major polluters in this province, such as Inco, Ontario Hydro and some of the steel mills? How can we ever hope to convince anyone elsewhere that they should do something we are not prepared to do ourselves? The whole idea that we cannot solve the problem by ourselves is a red herring, and I am becoming extremely tired of it.

We have admitted that acid rain is a serious problem; that it has killed thousand of lakes and is going to kill thousands more; that most recent reports state that it has started to affect the vegetation in some areas of this province. If we are really serious when we admit those things are happening and say that the federal government has to negotiate some kind of substantive agreement with the United States, then we have to be serious about dealing with the problem of acid rain right here in Ontario.

I seriously hope the member for Parry Sound, who spent a considerable amount of time dealing with that question in his speech yesterday, will think a little more seriously about the kind of attitude this government has displayed.

The government has prepared ads dedicated to the clean water aspect of Ontario. Those ads are almost a total denial of the things this government has admitted in this House concerning the extent of the problem of acid rain. They are an attempt on the part of the government to dupe the public and do not accurately portray the reality the people of Ontario are confronted with. Those ads suggest, "Where else could you find a clean lake like this?"

Why don't those ads talk about the real situation, about the damage that has been done to thousands of lakes and the thousands of lakes in this province that are now considered dead,

with virtually no marine life at all? Those ads should clearly state that we are going to have to start some head knocking and spending of money to clean up the mess. The people of this province should understand what they are confronted with and in what direction we will have to go in order to solve those problems.

The Minister of the Environment can attend conferences around this country and admit the seriousness of the problem, and he can admit it here in the House, but when the government issues this kind of advertising to the public, repeatedly, on their radios and televisions, how can you expect them to get upset about the problem? How can you expect the public to understand the need to expend moneys, both public and private, to solve the problem, because they have been misled and they do not understand the extent of the reality of the problem?

11:50 a.m.

So we have talked about the Keating Channel and we have talked about acid rain, and I have tried to point out two major lacks in the approach this government takes to environmental protection in the province. On the one hand they set up laws that create a process to protect the environment and then they continually go out to find ways to circumvent the law. On the one hand they admit a serious environmental problem, but for some magic reason they determine that, "Well, even if we clean up our own backyards we are still not going to have totally solved the problem," and that they do not have to do anything.

I want to go on now to my third example, because it is probably the most despicable example of environmental neglect in the province of Ontario. That is the whole case around the proposed liquid waste disposal facility at South Cayuga. It is an example of manipulation; it is an example of opportunism.

They did a study on South Cayuga, called the MacLaren report, that was not intended to say anything about South Cayuga. It was a study created to find the best site in Ontario for a liquid industrial waste, toxic waste, disposal site. That study group considered the South Cayuga site and rejected it, and then, at the urging of the minister of this government, pulled that site back into the study. Even in the study's final report, under the 19 different criteria they looked at, that site was not the best site, not the safest site, not the most appropriate site environmentally for the project the government is proposing. And yet the former minister chose that site, and the present minister continues to defend that site in spite of all the things that have happened since.

The announcement came last fall. The minister was strident, he was hard, he was firm. But over the course of about a month and a half, in a minority situation, he started to back down. He agreed that a number of things would happen; he agreed that the new waste management firm would conduct its own study—its own environmental assessment, if you like—and he agreed that a committee of this Legislature would also study the problem. And those hearings were just barely started before the election was called.

That committee of this Legislature was going to see and hear hundreds of witnesses. But if the members across the way want to understand why we can get so negative and so cynical about the motives on that side of the House, that committee was stopped by an election, and there has not been a single word from that side of the House about renewing and continuing that process.

Obviously if it was legitimate to set it up in the first place it should be legitimate to continue it now. But there has not been a single word—not in the throne speech, not in ministerial statements—not a comment about the possibilities of continuing that legislative committee on the appropriateness or inappropriateness of South Cayuga as a liquid waste disposal site.

Those fears were expressed by a number of members of this Legislature when the election was called, and those fears have come true. The members across the way ask us why we are so negative. We are so negative because we have learned through the years we have been here quite frequently we cannot believe the things we are told from across the way.

The former Minister of the Environment said the public was going to play a major role in the decisions about South Cayuga. Then just a week later he said in absolute terms that project would go ahead. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, how can a minister on the one hand say that the public is going to play a major role—this was just before the election as well—in determining whether or not that site at South Cayuga is developed as a liquid waste disposal site, and just one week later say in unequivocal terms that project will go ahead bar nothing? It makes an absolute joke out of listening to some of the statements which come from that side of the House from time to time.

A number of experts in this province have said South Cayuga is clearly the wrong place to

put this site. I grant that the experts do not always agree with each other, and in this case there are some experts who are saying that it is the right place to put the site. But certainly, when there is that kind of disagreement amongst those who are supposed to be the most knowledgeable in terms of this kind of a facility, then that situation should definitely warrant a full assessment under the Environmental Assessment Act.

If the experts who are supposed to be the most knowledgeable are that split, and serious questions are raised, instead of the minor secondary kind of assessment of the situation we are going to get in this particular instance the full public environmental assessment process should be put in place.

Those were laws which were created by the government of this province, that party across the way there. The promises which were made to us when those pieces of legislation, the Environmental Assessment Act and the Environmental Protection Act, were put into place—the promises which were made to us and to the people of this province were that we will never again allow the mistakes to be made that we have seen made in the past and that have caused us to bring this legislation in. Yet we may very well be making the same mistake again.

I have listened very carefully, Mr. Speaker, to the protest groups from the Dunnville and from the South Cayuga areas. On no occasion have the demands of the protesters been unreasonable. On no occasion have the protesters suggested that the dump absolutely should not go in South Cayuga. All those people have asked for is that a full assessment be held under the Environmental Assessment Act, a law created by the government of this province, the same government we are now talking about—supported in large part by the opposition parties. They have not been unreasonable.

The government response to that has been no one wants the dump in their backyard. No one wants the dump; that is a reflection of the attitude on the part of that government. It is the old divide and conquer theory. Set municipality off against municipality, community off against community. Then when you do the people of South Cayuga in, when you dump them because you dump on them, what other municipality, what other community in the province will really get upset about it, because they did not want it in their backyard either?

That is the old divide and conquer theory. It does not work and it is wrong. It is the wrong approach to dealing with the environment in this province. It is the wrong approach because it never leads to full solutions to the problems that face us. It always leads to half solutions. The government thinks, "If we dump in South Cayuga, we won't win that seat. But it doesn't matter because everyone else in the seats we hold is saying 'Whew.' " That is not the proper approach.

12 noon

The evidence is being ignored by the government. It is the government in this case that is being unreasonable, not the people out there. The people out there, whom the government is accusing of saying, "We don't want that dump in our backyard," are not saying that.

The people in South Cayuga are not as negative as the government is, and they are not as negative as the government accuses them of being. All they want is to see the laws applied. All they want is to see they get a full hearing, so they know when that hearing is over whatever processes are put into place in South Cayuga will be safe, will protect their water tables and their families.

I had to laugh during the course of the campaign when the stories hit the press about the flooding. It was occurring right on the proposed site, and the Premier and the Minister of the Environment were jumping up and down saying, "It isn't flooding; it's melting snow." We did not have any bloody snow this year. I sat and talked to a gentleman who cranked his way back and forth across that melted snow in a boat. As two people who had never been out to that site, the Premier and the minister were fools. This whole process is foolish. It is the third example of the major lack in this government's approach to environmental protection in Ontario. It is that negative split of community against community.

We went through the same process in Hamilton-Wentworth when the pressure to close the Upper Ottawa Street dump grew so great they had to start to take action. They waited far too long as it was. They had to go looking for another landfill site because they still had not dealt with the abilities that exist in this world to move to other technologies for waste disposal.

They started surveying in the township of Glanbrook and this government and its agents—the regional government of Hamilton-Wentworth was involved in the process as well—intentionally went out and set two communities against each other. They used those communities against each other in an environmental assessment hearing.

That is another example of the negative divide and conquer approach this government uses. It does not solve anything. Of course people do not want dumps in their backyards. To intentionally set community against community like that and end up using them in a process of law in this province is just not acceptable.

I say seriously and clearly to the new members of the Conservative Party in this House that this government's record on environmental protection is not the worst in the world, that is true, but—and I have to give a fair share of the credit to the Liberal Party because they have become fairly involved in raising environmental issues in this House—time and time again the opposition parties in this House have had to force the government to stand up and even admit the problem, let alone start moving towards possible solutions to it.

I would like to move on to the Ministry of Revenue for a few minutes. The Minister of Revenue (Mr. Ashe) is not here now but I welcome him to his new job in the Ministry of Revenue. I want to tell him seriously—because I have debated with him a couple of times in this House over tax issues and specifically over property taxes in Ontario—that if the attitudes he reflected in a couple of those debates continue now he is minister, he is going to have a rough time in this House, because the attitudes he expressed in some of those debates were just totally unacceptable.

I would like to take a moment to say to the new minister that he is going to have to go a long way to fill the shoes of the minister he is replacing, Lorne Maeck, the former member for Parry Sound. Perhaps the member for Parry Sound should take note of this as well, because Mr. Maeck was probably the most progressive, understanding, flexible, well-liked minister—or member for that matter—on that side of the House.

He was probably the only minister who was honestly prepared to sit down and try to work out some solutions. In fact, on occasion we did in my former days as the revenue critic when he was the minister.

It is going to be very difficult for the new minister to fill those shoes because of the very inflexible, strident stands he takes occasionally. We may sound strident over here from time to time, but we are prepared to sit down and work out solutions to the problems we see. I would like to see some more of the ministers follow the example set by the former member for Parry Sound in implementing some of the solutions that are negotiable.

I want to talk about a number of the programs in that ministry, and I will not be too long. My colleague from Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) and a number of my other colleagues, and probably a couple of Liberal members as well, have raised the problems that have evolved around this new approach to senior citizens, and tax grants for senior citizens, over the last year.

Yesterday we asked the minister a question, saying: "In this crazy situation, Mr. Minister, you promised us that because mistakes were made by the computer, because we did not have the time to sort out the computer tapes, those seniors would not be harrassed or pressured."

My colleague asked him yesterday, "What do you call it when all of a sudden auditors show up at a senior citizen's door, unannounced, to start going through his financial records?"

I do not know about him, but I call that harassment. I can see myself being a little bit frightened by that, never mind someone who is a little unsure about what the process is all about.

When that program was implemented there were some negative comments from this side of the House about Tory election ploys and buying seniors' votes. Perhaps we sometimes get a little overly negative, but the government's position last spring and last fall, when they were having problems with the program, and again this spring, is inflexible.

Periodically this government seems to have an inability to admit mistakes and to make an honest effort to correct them. Eventually, perhaps, they have been corrected, but sometimes the admission of the mistake speeds up the process of correcting it, simply because it gets the tension out of the air, both for the minister and for the critic, and also for the employees who end up coming under fire when this kind of stupidity goes on.

When the government set up this program, it was doing it for, as I recall, two or three reasons. One was to give some seniors in this province more in a property tax grant than they received in the past. True, some got more. Unfortunately, a lot got less and some got none at all.

Let us not get into that debate today, because we can have that debate again, perhaps, under the budget speech.

There were supposedly several other reasons for setting up these new grants. It would be much simpler for senior citizens; if they did not have any taxable income, they would not have

to fill out income tax forms to send off to Ottawa; they would be able to get these grants at a time when they could use them to pay their property taxes or their rent.

12:10 p.m.

That all sounded very nice, but, unfortunately, none of it has come about. It is not a simpler process for senior citizens. It is true that they do not have to fill out income tax returns any more, but some of them were confused and still did it anyway. And they still have to fill out the forms this government sends them. They still come to our constituency offices for assistance with them.

Then they go through the hassle of spending up to three or four months trying to get through to the ministry on the telephone. It is a good thing there was a toll free line, because it would have cost some of them a fortune for the number of times they had to call to try to find out what happened to their application and the reason for the holdup. The bureaucracy created by this new program did not simplify anything; it just created something worse than they had before.

Since the minister is not here, Mr. Speaker, I would like it if you or one of his colleagues could bring this to the minister's attention. Perhaps the minister and the government would consider how they can change the program to accomplish the original intent. Or perhaps they will scrap the program and get on with the process of upgrading the Ontario tax credit program to deal with the problems that senior citizens have. The fact is that the process was much simpler under the old system, although it needed serious upgrading in terms of the benefits provided.

That brings me to another issue in the Ministry of Revenue. It has been said many times in this House that although the Ministry of Revenue administers the provincial property assessment program, it is not completely responsible because policy is set by the Treasurer. Now I suppose that some of the policy in relation to the municipal aspects of finance at present in the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs will, presumably, be moved to the Ministry of Housing.

Property taxation in Ontario is the major failing of this government. There are a lot of areas where it has failed to reach their total objective, but this is the only area where the government of this province has totally failed, not only in terms of the objectives it set out in 1969, but in terms of interim objectives that have been set repeatedly during the course of the 1970s and even into this year.

It was probably the most frequently mentioned issue in three ridings in Hamilton, and I understand it was also the most frequently mentioned issue in a number of ridings here in Metro. Those were the ridings where the Conservatives did not quite manage to defeat us, perhaps because we were talking to the issue that most concerned the people in those ridings. I think it is time this government took the project off the shelf, dusted it off and had a serious look at getting on with the job of property tax reform.

I do not want to get into all the specifics here today, but the problems out there are huge. There are the little people who have been run out of their homes just because they are on fixed incomes while property taxes continue to escalate year after year; or people who are not even on fixed incomes, just average working people who have had the unfortunate luck, or lack of it, to live in a municipality where the government has carried out one of its halfway measures, the section 86 equalization program. They bought a house 30 years ago on a 2.5- or three-acre parcel in the fringe area of a municipality like the city of Hamilton.

This government is intent on trying to use the property tax system to deal with speculators and land speculation, but these little home owners are not speculators. Most of them do not have a clue what their property might be worth today. They know they bought it 20 years ago for $25,000, and they know it is all they can do just to keep it up—to keep the roof on it, to keep the little bit longer than normal driveway in fairly good shape, and to keep the grass cut and seed it so it is not a mess this year. They are not speculators.

This government has been so intent on trying to deal with, catch and punish land speculators through the property tax process that in areas where section 86 has been carried out or where the government has gone on the market value approach to assessment, as it has in a number of municipalities in this province, the government has literally destroyed little people in the process—average people, average home owners. That government over there continues to ignore that problem and continues to work through the process.

I think we have some of the answers, but I do not want to suggest that our answers are the only answers. There are a number of different approaches that could be taken to solve the problems in the property tax structure. It seems to me that the best approach to take is a package

approach, such as we attempted to do in the white paper we put out last year. It does not have to be the same package we suggested, but it should be a package approach that deals with the questions of property taxation and property assessment, the grant structure in municipal finance, the educational system and educational costs in Ontario, and the Ontario tax credit system.

Whether the government takes the suggestions we have made or any one of three or four other options that exist and it knows about—and about which I hope the minister knows about; the former minister did at least—in a package that deals with all those issues, all the problems that confront property taxpayers in this province can be dealt with effectively.

We can create a situation where senior citizens who have no taxable income will not have to pay any property taxes. We have gone halfway there; let us deal with the whole problem. The government gave seniors $500 in a tax grant, some of whom do not need it, but that $500 tax grant is still only half or less than half of what senior citizens need in terms of the amount of property taxes they are paying today.

I think even the members on that side of the House understand that any person living on an income level where he has absolutely no taxable income, if he wants to be able to maintain and keep his home, cannot afford to pay one penny of property taxes. I think that is understood.

What I am saying to the government, and to the minister specifically, is that all those problems can be dealt with, can be resolved, can be handled—and I think even handled co-operatively in this House with a committee of this House—if we sit down and hammer out a package and make some compromises. We all want to see those problems solved.

What bothers me at this point is that in the throne speech, and in the comments that have gone on in this House just before the election and since, there has not been a single mention of what used to be one of the key programs this government was involved in, province-wide property tax reform. That seriously distresses me.

12:20 p.m.

Without going on any longer, that is a fairly concise summary with some specific examples that have pointed out a number of different aspects of it. That is why the parties on this side of the House get so negative. That is why they have difficulty believing what the government is saying. That is why the parties on this side of the House get so upset when they see the government, in order to accomplish its own purposes, trying to bend the rules—rules that in many cases it set itself.

The Premier made some comments this morning about positive questioning. I want to suggest that, if we had some positive and honest approaches and initiatives in this House on the part of the government to deal with the problems we are faced with in this province—my colleagues and I have talked about some of them—honest and positive approaches to ask the members of all three parties to sit down in committee or in the House to work on some of these problems, which are not even ideological in nature, and work out compromises and solutions, then the Premier would find himself getting more positive responses and approaches from this side of the House.

Mr. Kells: Before I begin, Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Deputy Speaker and the new Speaker on their appointments.

I recall well that the new Speaker and I were first-time candidates on behalf of our party back in 1971. It is gratifying to me to see how he has advanced in his political life. Unlike some others here, I have had the experience of meeting him under different circumstances, particularly when I used to bring my lacrosse team into his riding of Peterborough on an almost weekly basis every summer.

It also pleases me that his appointment is not only a reflection of his ability and contribution to the proceedings of this chamber but also another significant achievement for the town of Peterborough in having one of its own in such a distinguished position.

Today I want to talk not only about the throne speech but also about what I believe to be some of the most serious concerns affecting the riding of Humber, concerns that no doubt will be debated in this House over the next few years. They are issues that could be considered only urban subjects, although I am confident they are the type of subject matter that will eventually impact on rural areas also.

Prior to getting into these areas, I want to talk a little about my political background and the route that led me to my nomination and election in Humber riding. Some of the opposition members appear to believe that Tory backbenchers somehow evolve out of thin air and arrive at this assembly to be programmed to perform by government whips and cabinet ministers.

If I may, I want to go all the way back to the

provincial campaign of 1948. Some in this House may recall that it was the election in which the old Co-operative Commonwealth Federation under E. B. Jolliffe did very well in Metropolitan Toronto and in Ontario, taking 21 seats altogether and becoming the opposition. I was 12 years old at the time and worked on Mr. Jolliffe's campaign in York South. York South was much larger then and was considered a strong working-man's riding. Even today it continues to send members of the opposition to Queen's Park.

One of the controversial issues at that time was the fact that there were two well-known Communist candidates running in Toronto in the persons of Joe Salsberg and Walter Macleod. The Co-operative Commonwealth Federation campaign of Mr. Jolliffe in particular took great pains to make sure that the public did not associate the CCF party with the two Communist candidates, and of course the Tories tried to imply that they were closely associated.

I recall well the night of jubilation at the CCF headquarters on Oakwood Avenue and how surprised I was when Mr. Salsberg and Mr. Macleod, who also won, arrived to join the party. It was on that occasion that I began to question political rhetoric.

My next close relationship with political parties began when I went to work for the old Toronto Telegram in 1958 at the age of 22. I reported news on what was then the radio and television desk, and I watched the many campaigns of the day. As part of my duties at the Telegram, I developed a practitioner's expertise on radio and TV news, which was then in its infancy, and for that reason I was approached by MacLaren Advertising to help in the federal Liberal campaign of 1962. I set up a political radio news bureau for the Ontario part of the campaign.

In essence, I used to work at the Telegram throughout the day and on the Liberal campaign in the evening, taping speeches of Liberal cabinet minister hopefuls and pumping them down the telephone line to the radio station to be used on the day of the speech.

In the course of doing this work I had occasion to meet and tape people like the honourable Jack Pickersgill, the honourable Paul Hellyer, the honourable Donald MacDonald, the honourable Mitchell Sharp, and Red Kelly of hockey fame, among others. As you know, Mr. Speaker, Red Kelly was about to take York West for the Liberals at that time. You might say that I had the opportunity to evaluate new and old Liberal candidates on a one-on-one basis, and it was a revealing experience. I grew through this exposure to have a more precise understanding of the political campaign process.

Honourable members may recall that the result of that election was indecisive, and it was not long before Mr. Pearson and Mr. Diefenbaker were at it again. This time I was approached by Ted Rogers, who had just purchased radio station CHFI. He asked me to provide a similar service for the federal Progressive Conservative Party, using his station facilities; so I repeated the exercise, only this time I became more familiar with the personalities in the Conservative cabinet.

One might say that through this extracurricular activity I began to develop a keen awareness of politicians and their campaign messages and styles. Also during this time, as part of my job at the Telegram, I attended the leadership convention that selected John Robarts as Progressive Conservative leader and witnessed the ritual that takes place when a party selects its leader in a convention atmosphere.

Finally, in 1964, I left the Telegram and joined MacLaren Advertising, which was very active in the federal and provincial Liberal Party politics of the day. As a result of this change of location, I became involved in the Liberal convention for Ontario leader on behalf of the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) and, as you will recall, the Liberal Party saw fit at that time to elect Andrew Thompson. It would not be the last time for me to be on the losing side.

A short time after this, in the federal election of 1965, I was sent to Nova Scotia as MacLaren's contribution to the campaign of the honourable Allan MacEachen and to be of help throughout the province.

I only take honourable members through this little tour to illustrate that I was given the opportunity back then and for a number of years to see political parties at work and to watch the deliberations and decisions that were made and, of course, the results when the public finally made their feelings known.

Shortly after the 1965 election, I joined the telecast crew of Hockey Night in Canada, where I spent the next five years happily involved in helping to bring hockey games to the public and put my political interest and aspirations behind me.

However, my interest in political life never waned, basically because I came from what

might be called an old Ontario family. Our roots go back to the Waverley area of Ontario, which lies in the riding of my colleague the member for Simcoe East (Mr. McLean). As a youngster, I had many a lively discussion with my Tory grandmother and my great aunts. I used to take great joy in criticizing the political decisions of George Drew and later Leslie Frost. I might say I am happy to see that Simcoe East remains a Conservative stronghold and has done so for the past 70 years.

12:30 p.m.

I take great pride in my family background and roots in this regard. In 1975, I organized a family reunion in Simcoe East and wrote a family history which I have taken the liberty of giving to the new member so that he will have a detailed understanding of why I have such a high regard for the area he represents.

As a result of my rural raising and the opportunities I have had to get to know the inner workings of the political system, I developed a strong appreciation for the principles and policies of the Progressive Conservative Party and, as a result, found it easy and satisfying to make the decision to become an active Progressive Conservative.

Having grown up as a teenager in the Lakeshore part of Metropolitan Toronto, I became interested in the welfare of our party in that riding and successfully stood for the PC nomination there in 1970. As you know, Mr. Speaker, our leader, Premier John Robarts, retired that same year. The leadership convention was held in March, and once again I had the pleasure of attending the political renewing of the faith. In the course of events, the Lakeshore delegation and I supported the Premier (Mr. Davis) as leader, and the past decade has certainly vindicated our judgement in that regard.

In the election that took place that fall, I lost in a close battle to the New Democratic Party incumbent, Pat Lawlor, but I gained a tremendous amount of experience as an active campaigner and made a commitment to the political process in a permanent fashion. As most members of this House will recall, our party gained a substantial majority and I joined the Honourable James Auld as his executive assistant.

For three years, I watched with admiration the daily workings of the House. I gained through experience and I developed an even greater appreciation of our political system as it allows for debate, discussion and finally produces legislation that governs our everyday lives here in Ontario. At that time, I determined that when the opportunity came along I would again stand for office, and I was confident that some day I would have the opportunity to participate as a member of the government party.

As most members may appreciate, there are any number of routes available and none more immediate than the area of municipal politics. At this point, I want to observe how pleased I am to have read the background of the 21 other new Tory members and to find what a plethora of municipal experience comes with the Tory class of 1981. As a matter of fact, among us, we have 133 years of municipal political experience, not counting trustee experience, and this is both in rural and urban areas. I believe this type of representation by the government allows Ontarians in all areas and all walks of life the availability of a direct line to the government caucus.

In short, I believe one of the reasons our party has been so successful in receiving mandates to govern is the fact that our individual members, through their endeavours, have gained continuing and constant support from the people in their respective ridings.

I am sure my own case is duplicated many times over. In 1976, I became an alderman in ward one in Etobicoke, which takes in a good portion of Humber riding. I became a controller and a Metropolitan Toronto councillor in the election of 1978. Running against the incumbent in the mayoral campaign of 1980, I finished second. As you know, Mr. Speaker, there is only one mayor; so I turned briefly once more to the private sector.

It was only in January 1981 that I learned of the impending retirement of the Honourable John MacBeth. At this juncture and on behalf of the people of Humber riding, I wish to express our appreciation for the service and dedication of Mr. MacBeth. I know that most of the members in this chamber have at one time or another had the opportunity to work with John, and I am aware of the high regard and esteem in which he is held by the members today. I am proud to be the successor to such a fine gentleman, and I accept the challenge to try to serve Humber's constituents as faithfully and as well.

I suspect that everyone in the Legislature has vivid recollections of their first nomination meeting, and I am no exception. In a hard-fought contest, I received the Humber nomination. In the March 19 election, I was gratified to receive more than 60 per cent of the votes cast in my riding and to receive a plurality of almost 11,000 votes.

I want to talk a little about Humber riding where I live and have reared and educated my four children. It is a great place in which to reside. Geographically, it is centrally located in relation to Toronto and is well served by highways, subway, other forms of transit and arterial roads. It is a mature urban area with a solid mix of single-family homes and multiple dwellings. It could be said that we have an ageing population and, in general, that Humber is a riding with very few problems. However, that is not exactly the case.

Populations might remain quietly in place, and neighborhoods mature majestically, but vast changes take place in other areas that impact strongly on the population. This is the case in Humber. We are vulnerable to inflation, traffic increases, environmental noise and all the other daily problems that affect any urban area in North America. Ageing often equates with loneliness, inflation tears at fixed incomes, old houses need maintenance, chronic care beds are a desperate need, and increased taxes of all kinds have to be borne.

Humber looks to this government for direction and guidance, and it is my firm commitment to play a role in helping to deliver on the promise, the promise of prosperity and wellbeing that the majority of my constituents have enjoyed and grown to equate with the Progressive Conservative government.

During the course of the recent election the subject of school closures became a rather controversial subject in my riding, as indeed it would in any constituency currently facing the dilemma. Added to this situation is the concern about Don Bosco Separate School located in Humber; it has 27 portable classrooms in use. Over the winter months this produced intolerable conditions for the students involved.

The combination of impending closures of elementary and secondary schools and the proliferation of portable classrooms in the separate school system is impacting to produce the potential for extreme tensions in neighbourhoods that have always in the past been very compatible and tranquil.

In my campaign literature I reiterated the position of the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) in relation to the Don Bosco solution. I am pleased to be able to say that the minister is determined to have this commitment carried out. The point that I want to make is that the Don Bosco situation is one that is unfortunate at the least, but that it should not be taken in unison with any school closure review that may currently be taking place.

I also wish to point out that to date the Minister of Education has not received any correspondence from either the Etobicoke Board of Education or the Metropolitan Toronto Separate School Board since the public letter of March 4 on the subject. Needless to say, I am concerned and will be waiting to learn of any decisions that may have been made that will shed new light on the specifics of the solution to be reached to ensure that the Don Bosco school students' plight is not allowed to continue.

However, these facts are clear: The Etobicoke Board of Education was formed in 1949, and its total pupil enrolment was 4,667. By 1968, enrolment in 74 elementary schools was more than 41,000. This increase was due in part to the amalgamation of the Etobicoke board and the Lakeshore Board of Education in 1967; however, most of it was due to the rapid development of residential land. By January 1979, enrolment was 26,536, a drop of 35 per cent. The board estimates a continuing decline until 1986, when enrolment will reach 18,000 pupils in the public elementary schools.

12:40 p.m.

Further, in the general area of school closures I am pleased to learn that the Ministry of Education has issued instructions to directors of education regarding school closure policy for school boards. It is to be hoped that these new instructions will work to help clear up any misunderstanding that may have resulted from the recent events surrounding the closure situation at Keiller MacKay Collegiate in Humber riding. One could even hope that there may be solutions other than closures, and I am sure this will be debated in detail as this unfortunate situation evolves.

I quote: "It is now expected by the ministry that all school boards will prepare, approve and publicize, for the electorate of the board, a definitive policy on procedures to be followed in considering whether or not a school should be closed. This policy will contain the following elements:

"Procedures will be applied to identify when and how a school will be considered for closure and to enable citizens who may be concerned over the general social and economic effects on the community to make their views known to the board prior to any decision to close the school. There will be established a minimum time period between the identification of a school as a candidate for closure and the final decision of the board.

"There will be requirement for the presenta-

tion to the board, in public session, of reports on the effects of closure on community activities of a social, educational, cultural or recreational nature which take place on the school premises and on the effects of closure of a specific school on the attendance area defined for that school, attendance at other schools, and the need and extent of busing.

"There will also be a report analysis of the implications for the program for students both in the school under consideration for closing and in the school or schools where programs may be affected by the school closing. A report will be made on the financial effects of closing or not closing the school, including any capital implications. Finally, there will be a report indicating the possible alternative use or disposition of the school if it is closed.

"The school closure policy approved by the board shall be filed with the regional office of the ministry at the earliest possible date and will apply to those schools of the board where the resolution to close a school is passed after June 30, 1981. The ministry shall be advised of any changes in policy approved by the board after the date of initial filing. School boards with established closure policies are requested to review these policies against the criteria set out before filing with the ministry."

In essence, the subject of school closing is the most sensitive of issues. It is an area that has all the potential for exploitation in a political sense and for comprehensive negotiation in a practical way.

I have the utmost confidence in the Minister of Education, and I sincerely believe that the Etobicoke Board of Education will work diligently and faithfully to abide by the new school closure policy, while at the same time taking into consideration the other exigencies caused by the parallel but opposite events taking place in the separate school system.

Finally, I trust and hope that the Metropolitan Separate School Board will be just as cognizant of the difficulties being borne in the area of school closures in this public school system.

Another subject that is very dear to my heart, and one that is being addressed by the government at present, is the area of municipal government and its relations with the province. The integration of the policies and programs of the Ministry of Housing with those operations of the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs that relate to municipal matters is a decision that I applaud. The new ministry will be known as the ministry of municipal affairs and housing, and it will reflect and strengthen this government's commitments to the municipal level of government.

During my tenure on Etobicoke and Metropolitan Toronto councils, there were a number of subjects that were debated and discusssed, and from them there developed a feeling by a number of my former colleagues that sufficient concern and understanding was not being exhibited by the senior level of government. To be more precise, there are a multitude of issues that have been debated at the Metropolitan Toronto level, all of which ultimately have to be resolved permanently or temporarily by decisions that will be implemented in this House.

Rightly or wrongly, the feeling is growing among my former colleagues that a low level of consultation seems to be taking place. In reality, the senior level of government is proceeding with or without input from Metropolitan Toronto and its member municipalities.

This is not the time to discuss this perception. Instead, let me list the current subjects of concern from the municipal point of view. Possibly this situation has come about because times have changed dramatically. Back in the 1950s, any major area of controversy between Metropolitan Toronto and the provincial government likely would have been solved by Metro Chairman Fred Gardiner telephoning Premier Leslie Frost and working out the solution over lunch.

It appears this type of local statesmanship that led to formal agreements is a thing of the past. Out in Humber riding, we view these current concerns from the parochial point of view. In the case of group homes, for example, during my time on Etobicoke council we had to put up with situations that have given local politicians proven reasons for concern.

We had situations where we changed our zoning to accommodate group home activities that proved unsuccessful, causing great concern and anquish in the neighbourhood. Neither the municipality nor the province was able to rectify the situation. I know most members in this chamber recognize that municipalities rise or fall on the basis of their zoning bylaws and work diligently to implement good planning procedures under the Planning Act. It would appear this is a municipality's last line of defence.

I recall a situation last year involving a request for a group home on Dixon Road in Humber riding which was to be used for women inmates as a place to help their re-entry into outside society. In the course of our hearings in

relation to the zoning change it was learned that, although the applicant had good intentions, the need or urgency for this type of facility was certainly not proven by the evidence.

As a matter of fact, in the latest provincial allocation of group home needs in the borough of Etobicoke, this type of group home was not even indicated. It is a feeling of municipal politicians that neighbourhood rights should remain jealously guarded under the planning process and that any legislation should not march ahead of public acceptance.

Most of the problems at the municipal level come down to funding programs. In the United States, the federal government directs money to cities and metropolitan governments to implement rapid transit services and to alleviate social ills. This is not the case in this country, where we have the provincial government acting as an intermediary. More important, one has a situation where most immediate problems are in the municipal area with only a property tax base for revenue. It appears that municipalities quite often are caught in the arguments of the day between the province and the federal government, with severe funding shortages as a result of policy changes.

I want to mention other areas of concern that flow from the squeeze on tax revenues. It is the contention of the municipalities that make up Metropolitan Toronto that the formula used to arrive at health grant totals, for example, discriminates against the large communities, which carry a heavy load in this regard.

In the same vein, in the area of rapid transit the challenges and the new pressures of Metropolitan Toronto are extreme, particularly in comparison to smaller communities. It shows up more dramatically in the area of policing, where municipalities receive funding on a per capita grant basis, and the cost of policing and crime prevention in the large urban areas in proportion to lesser populated cities is increasing daily.

It is also the belief of Metropolitan Toronto that a great deal of the police cost could almost be described as social work, and possibly extra funding should be received because of this. The same point could be made in the area of cultural grants as the demands and responsibilities in this regard increase yearly.

I am pleased to see in the throne speech that the government is considering building a light rail transit line from Union Station to serve the new convention centre and terminating at the Canadian National Exhibition and Ontario Place. This decision will have a great impact on any future development that may be considered in that area.

I suspect that out of the current review of CNE operations by the committee composed of the Canadian National Exhibition Association, Metropolitan Toronto and Ontario will come a brand-new scheme that will exploit the natural geographical advantages of this area and may even include a new trade centre. I eagerly await developments in this regard.

12:50 p.m.

I do not have to remind most members that immigration during the 1970s served to increase pressures severely in the areas of social planning and increased substantially the moneys that must be raised from the property tax base. If one is familiar with and agrees with the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto report on this subject, one will conclude this is an area that needs a great deal of attention and major funding in the years ahead. As a matter of fact, editorials in the Toronto Star have been publicizing this concern in a major way for at least the last two years.

All this adds up to an urgent need in this great community of Metropolitan Toronto for more recreational facilities, which, of course, means more park land. Nothing crystallizes the arguments between governments more than the Toronto Islands issue. Although there are certainly two sides to the argument, and these are well vocalized in our new caucus, it appears that somehow a lack of communication and understanding of this subject has grown up over the last decade.

Many politicians on Metropolitan Toronto council believe, since their position has always been upheld by the courts, that they are right in questioning the actions of the provincial government. Even though the list of subjects that need immediate attention is long, the areas of mutual co-operation and achievement is even more impressive.

I am confident that creation of the new ministry of housing and municipal affairs indicates that my government is aware of, and more than willing to address itself to some solution of, the complex issues of the day, not only between large regional governments but also in our smaller cities, towns, villages and communities throughout this great province.

In closing, I wish to respond to a point made by the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) two Tuesday evenings ago. I want to say at the beginning that I realize the spirit of goodwill in

which his remarks were intended, and I appreciate the gist of his comments. However, one thing came through to me strongly: I believe the member was earnest in his belief that the new crop of Progressive Conservative back-benchers might not understand that they have, or should attempt to play, a meaningful role in the day-to-day deliberations of this House.

May I assure him in my own case—and I attempted to trace my political background in some detail—that this new crop of members is willing and able to participate in the formulation of the government's position and enactment of new legislation.

It might appear, particularly from his side of the House, that we are somewhat excess baggage to this government. The best way I can alleviate his concern is to point out to him that when I first arrived here as an aide, back in 1971, there were more PCs than now, and that, to my knowledge, there are only three members, including the Premier, still active in the cabinet. No fewer than 25 new members of the class of 1971, or later, are currently, or have been, cabinet members. I believe this constant evolution of back-benchers to front-benchers has gone on and is continually going on.

I have the greatest confidence that our group of newcomers will in time make a constant and strong contribution to the daily activities of the Legislature. In fact, I believe the honourable members will come to know us quite well indeed.

On motion by Mr. Ruprecht, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

APPENDIX

(See page 443, May 7, 1981)

ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE PAPER

EDUCATION STATISTICS

1. Mr. Nixon: 1. How many teachers are employed in (a) the public elementary schools of Ontario; (b) the secondary schools; (c) the separate schools? 2. How many students attend each of the abovementioned school systems? 3. What is the average salary in each system? (April 23, 1981.)

Hon. Miss Stephenson: 1. Teachers[1] employed in publicly supported schools as of September 1980:

	Full-time Teachers	Full-time Equivalent of all Teachers[2]
(a) Public	35,357	39,435
(b) Secondary	33,840	35,219
(c) Roman Catholic Separate	17,296	20,111

[1]Includes all principals, vice-principals, heads of department, and other non-teaching educational staff employed in the school

[2]Total of full-time and full-time equivalent of part-time teachers

2. Students enrolled in publicly supported schools as of September 1980:

	No. of Students
(a) Public	816,836
(b) Secondary	586,261
(c) Roman Catholic Separate	423,438

3. Average salary of teachers[1] employed in publicly supported schools as of September 1980:

	$
(a) Public	23,944.0
(b) Secondary	29,763.3
(c) Roman Catholic Separate	22,513.2

[1]Includes all principals, vice-principals, heads of department and other non-teaching educational staff employed in the school.

Source: Elementary and Secondary School September Reports, 1980 Teacher Statistics File, 1980.

TOWNSEND NEW COMMUNITY

2. Mr. Nixon: 1. How many houses in Townsend are owned by residents of the community? How many of these are advertised for sale? 2. What is the cost of the commercial facilities presently under construction at Townsend? 3. What is the cost of the regional government headquarters planned for Townsend? 4. What are the property, developmental and advertising costs so far in the Townsend program? (April 23, 1981.)

Hon. Mr. Bennett: 1. As at April 28, 1981, 44 houses have been constructed or are under construction, of which 24 have been sold. Twelve of the completed homes are occupied. The remaining 20 unsold homes and 171 serviced lots are advertised for sale.

2. The commercial facilities will be constructed in three phases. Phase I, comprising three buildings, is presently under construction and will cost approximately $1,481,300. In addition, site costs related to phases II and III will add an additional $581,000.

3. The estimated cost of the proposed administration building is $2,339,000.

4. As at March 31, 1981, the property cost of the Townsend lands comprising 5444.83 hectares was $41,642,102, of which $33,780,000 relates to the long-term agricultural lands and $7,862,102 to the urban development lands.

Development costs include the Townsend and Nanticoke Creek parkways ($3,499,945), which provide access to the town site from highways 3 and 6, interim sewage facilities ($1,469,343) and other internal services ($3,755,411). Other development costs, including ski and hiking trail, signs and entrance landscaping, et cetera, are $674,955.

Advertising costs in Townsend, covering both residential and commercial to March 31, 1981, amount to $214,952.

Total costs for the urban development lands are $17,476,708.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Re: Part 3 only: The amount of $2,339,000 was budgeted for a design to accommodate the city of Nanticoke and the regional municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk.

Since Nanticoke is not joining the region at this site, the region is working with the architect

and the Ontario Land Corporation on a new design that recognizes the lower space requirements. The cost is expected to be within the above figure, or lower.

At the same time, the CAO has been asked to price renovations to the present Simcoe site. This matter is to be dealt with at the next regional council meeting on May 14, 1981.

RENT REVIEW PROGRAM

3. Mr. Smith: Could the Minister of Housing provide the following information with regard to the ministry's review of the rent control program: 1. The terms of reference of the contract entered into with Price Waterhouse Associates concerning a questionnaire relating to rent control; whether the contract was one procured by way of tender, advertisement or otherwise; when such tender, advertisement or other such notice was offered; and when the contract was signed. 2. The terms of reference of the contract entered into with Social Policy Research Associates concerning a questionnaire relating to rent control; whether the contract was one procured by way of tender, advertisement or otherwise; when such tender, advertisement or other such notice was offered; and when the contract was signed. 3. The names of the two urban affairs experts from the University of Toronto who have been retained as part of this review of the rent control program; the terms of reference of the contracts entered into; whether these contracts were procured by way of tender, advertisement or otherwise; when such tender, advertisement or other such notice was offered; and when the contract was signed? (April 27, 1981.)

See sessional paper 55.

5. Mr. Philip: Will the ministry table copies of all questionnaires currently being used to canvass the views of tenants, landlords and other persons on aspects of the rent review program and on other housing market issues? Will the ministry further advise of what other persons, organizations or groups were consulted in the preparation of the questionnaires? (April 29, 1981.)

See sessional paper 56.

ADVERTISING

6. Mr. Foulds: Would each ministry indicate how much money was spent between September 1, 1980, and March 31, 1981, for advertising in each of the following categories: radio, television, newspaper? Would each ministry give a breakdown of themes, subjects and topics of each advertising campaign? What agencies produced the advertising material in each ministry? Would each ministry give a weekly breakdown for the expenditures involved in the period outlined? Would the ministry indicate a comparison with the advertising actually spent for the same period one year previously? Would each ministry also outline the expenditure for advertising for each of the government agencies, boards and commissions reporting through its minister for each of the time periods above? (April 29, 1981.)

7. Mr. Foulds: Would each ministry indicate the total advertising budget, including public relations and polling, spent in the fiscal year April 1, 1980, to March 31, 1981? (April 29, 1981.)

8. Mr. Breithaupt: 1. What was the total advertising budget for the Provincial Secretariat for Justice and its agencies, boards and commissions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1981? 2. What was the comparable advertising budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980? 3. What advertising agencies were employed? 4. Were tenders let for the account? 5. Would you provide a copy of the material used in all the promotions such as brochures, radio and television scripts, direct mailings and any other promotional material? (April 30, 1981.)

9. Mr. Wrye: 1. What was the total advertising budget for the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and its agencies, boards and commissions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1981? 2. What was the comparable advertising budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980? 3. What advertising agencies were employed? 4. Were tenders let for the account? 5. Would you provide a copy of the material used in all the promotions such as brochures, radio and television scripts, direct mailings and any other promotional material? (April 30, 1981.)

10. Mr. Van Horne: 1. What was the total advertising budget for the Ministry of Health and its agencies, boards and commissions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1981? 2. What was the comparable advertising budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980? 3. What advertising agencies were employed? 4. Were tenders let for the account? 5. Would you provide a copy of the material used in all the

promotions such as brochures, radio and television scripts, direct mailings and any other promotional material? (April 30, 1981.)

11. Mr. Sweeney: 1. What was the total advertising budget for the Ministry of Education and its agencies, boards and commissions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1981? 2. What was the comparable advertising budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980? 3. What advertising agencies were employed? 4. Were tenders let for the account? 5. Would you provide a copy of the material used in all the promotions such as brochures, radio and television scripts, direct mailings and any other promotional material? (April 30, 1981.)

12. Mr. Spensieri: 1. What was the total advertising budget for the Ministry of Correctional Services and its agencies, boards and commissions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1981? 2. What was the comparable advertising budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980? 3. What advertising agencies were employed? 4. Were tenders let for the account? 5. Would you provide a copy of the material used in all the promotions such as brochures, radio and television scripts, direct mailings and any other promotional material? (April 30, 1981.)

13. Mr. Sargent: 1. What was the total advertising budget for the Management Board of Cabinet and its agencies, boards and commissions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1981? 2. What was the comparable advertising budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980? 3. What advertising agencies were employed? 4. Were tenders let for the account? 5. Would you provide a copy of the material used in all the promotions such as brochures, radio and television scripts, direct mailings and any other promotional material? (April 30, 1981.)

14. Mr. Roy: 1. What was the total advertising budget for the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs and its agencies, boards and commissions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1981? 2. What was the comparable advertising budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980? 3. What advertising agencies were employed? 4. Were tenders let for the account? 5. Would you provide a copy of the material used in all the promotions such as brochures, radio and television scripts, direct mailings and any other promotional material? (April 30, 1981.)

15. Mr. Riddell: 1. What was the total advertising budget for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and its agencies, boards and commissions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1981? 2. What was the comparable advertising budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980? 3. What advertising agencies were employed? 4. Were tenders let for the account? 5. Would you provide a copy of the material used in all the promotions such as brochures, radio and television scripts, direct mailings and any other promotional material? (April 30, 1981.)

16. Mr. T.P. Reid: 1. What was the total advertising budget for the Ministry of Northern Affairs and its agencies, boards and commissions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1981? 2. What was the comparable advertising budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980? 3. What advertising agencies were employed? 4. Were tenders let for the account? 5. Would you provide a copy of the material used in all the promotions such as brochures, radio and television scripts, direct mailings and any other promotional material? (April 30, 1981.)

17. Mr. J.A. Reed: 1. What was the total advertising budget for the Ministry of Energy and its agencies, boards and commissions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1981? 2. What was the comparable advertising budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980? 3. What advertising agencies were employed? 4. Were tenders let for the account? 5. Would you provide a copy of the material used in all the promotions such as brochures, radio and television scripts, direct mailings and any other promotional material? (April 30, 1981.)

18. Mr. Peterson: 1. What was the total advertising budget for the Ministry of Treasury and Economics and its agencies, boards and commissions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1981? 2. What was the comparable advertising budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980? 3. What advertising agencies were employed? 4. Were tenders let for the account? 5. Would you provide a copy of the material used in all the promotions such as brochures, radio and television scripts, direct mailings and any other promotional material? (April 30, 1981.)

19. Mr. McEwen: 1. What was the total advertising budget for the Ministry of Housing and its agencies, boards and commissions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1981? 2. What was the comparable advertising budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980? 3. What advertising agencies were employed? 4. Were

tenders let for the account? 5. Would you provide a copy of the material used in all the promotions such as brochures, radio and television scripts, direct mailings and any other promotional material? (April 30, 1981.)

20. Mr. Mancini: 1. What was the total advertising budget for the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and its agencies, boards and commissions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1981? 2. What was the comparable advertising budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980? 3. What advertising agencies were employed? 4. Were tenders let for the account? 5. Would you provide a copy of the material used in all the promotions such as brochures, radio and television scripts, direct mailings and any other promotional material? (April 30, 1981.)

21. Mr. Kerrio: 1. What was the total advertising budget for the Ministry of the Environment and its agencies, boards and commissions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1981? 2. What was the comparable advertising budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980? 3. What advertising agencies were employed? 4. Were tenders let for the account? 5. Would you provide a copy of the material used in all the promotions such as brochures, radio and television scripts, direct mailings and any other promotional material? (April 30, 1981.)

22. Mr. Haggerty: 1. What was the total advertising budget for the Ministry of Revenue and its agencies, boards and commissions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1981? 2. What was the comparable advertising budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980? 3. What advertising agencies were employed? 4. Were tenders let for the account? 5. Would you provide a copy of the material used in all the promotions such as brochures, radio and television scripts, direct mailings and any other promotional material? (April 30, 1981.)

23. Mr. Elston: 1. What was the total advertising budget for the Ministry of the Solicitor General and its agencies, boards and commissions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1981? 2. What was the comparable advertising budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980? 3. What advertising agencies were employed? 4. Were tenders let for the account? 5. Would you provide a copy of the material used in all the promotions such as brochures, radio and television scripts, direct mailings and any other promotional material? (April 30, 1981.)

24. Mr. Edighoffer: 1. What was the total advertising budget for the Ministry of Culture and Recreation and its agencies, boards and commissions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1981? 2. What was the comparable advertising budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980? 3. What advertising agencies were employed? 4. Were tenders let for the account? 5. Would you provide a copy of the material used in all the promotions such as brochures, radio and television scripts, direct mailings and any other promotional material? (April 30, 1981.)

25. Mr. Eakins: 1. What was the total advertising budget for the Ministry of Natural Resources and its agencies, boards and commissions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1981? 2. What was the comparable advertising budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980? 3. What advertising agencies were employed? 4. Were tenders let for the account? 5. Would you provide a copy of the material used in all the promotions such as brochures, radio and television scripts, direct mailings and any other promotional material? (April 30, 1981.)

26. Mr. Cunningham: 1. What was the total advertising budget for the Ministry of Industry and Tourism and its agencies, boards and commissions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1981? 2. What was the comparable advertising budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980? 3. What advertising agencies were employed? 4. Were tenders let for the account? 5. Would you provide a copy of the material used in all the promotions such as brochures, radio and television scripts, direct mailings and any other promotional material? (April 30, 1981.)

27. Ms. Copps: 1. What was the total advertising budget for the Ministry of Labour and its agencies, boards and commissions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1981? 2. What was the comparable advertising budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980? 3. What advertising agencies were employed? 4. Were tenders let for the account? 5. Would you provide a copy of the material used in all the promotions such as brochures, radio and television scripts, direct mailings and any other promotional material? (April 30, 1981.)

28. Mr. Breithaupt: 1. What was the total advertising budget for the Ministry of the Attorney General and its agencies, boards and commissions for the fiscal year ending March 31,

1981? 2. What was the comparable advertising budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980? 3. What advertising agencies were employed? 4. Were tenders let for the account? 5. Would you provide a copy of the material used in all the promotions such as brochures, radio and television scripts, direct mailings and any other promotional material? (April 30, 1981.)

29. Mr. Bradley: 1. What was the total advertising budget for the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations and its agencies, boards and commissions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1981? 2. What was the comparable advertising budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980? 3. What advertising agencies were employed? 4. Were tenders let for the account? 5. Would you provide a copy of the material used in all the promotions such as brochures, radio and television scripts, direct mailings and any other promotional material? (April 30, 1981.)

30. Mr. Boudria: 1. What was the total advertising budget for the Ministry of Government Services and its agencies, boards and commissions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1981? 2. What was the comparable advertising budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980? 3. What advertising agencies were employed? 4. Were tenders let for the account? 5. Would you provide a copy of the material used in all the promotions such as brochures, radio and television scripts, direct mailings and any other promotional material? (April 30, 1981.)

31. Mr. Conway: 1. What was the total advertising budget for the Ministry of Community and Social Services and its agencies, boards and commissions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1981? 2. What was the comparable advertising budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980? 3. What advertising agencies were employed? 4. Were tenders let for the account? 5. Would you provide a copy of the material used in all the promotions such as brochures, radio and television scripts, direct mailings and any other promotional material? (April 30, 1981.)

32. Mr. Ruprecht: Of the total advertising budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year for the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development, what were the total media costs incurred during the period from February 1, 1981, to March 19, 1981? (April 30, 1981.)

33. Mr. McGuigan: Of the total advertising budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year for the Provincial Secretariat for Resources Development, what were the total media costs incurred during the period from February 1, 1981, to March 19, 1981? (April 30, 1981.)

34. Mr. Breithaupt: Of the total advertising budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year for the Provincial Secretariat for Justice, what were the total media costs incurred during the period from February 1, 1981, to March 19, 1981? (April 30, 1981.)

35. Mr. Wrye: Of the total advertising budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year for the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, what were the total media costs incurred during the period from February 1, 1981, to March 19, 1981? (April 30, 1981.)

36. Mr. Van Horne: Of the total advertising budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year for the Ministry of Health, what were the total media costs incurred during the period from February 1, 1981, to March 19, 1981? (April 30, 1981.)

37. Mr. Sweeney: Of the total advertising budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year for the Ministry of Education, what were the total media costs incurred during the period from February 1, 1981, to March 19, 1981? (April 30, 1981.)

38. Mr. Spensieri: Of the total advertising budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year for the Ministry of Correctional Services, what were the total media costs incurred during the period from February 1, 1981, to March 19, 1981? (April 30, 1981.)

39. Mr. Sargent: Of the total advertising budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year for the Management Board of Cabinet, what were the total media costs incurred during the period from February 1, 1981, to March 19, 1981? (April 30, 1981.)

40. Mr. Roy: Of the total advertising budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year for the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs, what were the total media costs incurred during the period from February 1, 1981, to March 19, 1981? (April 30, 1981.)

41. Mr. Riddell: Of the total advertising budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, what were the total media costs incurred during the period from February 1, 1981, to March 19, 1981? (April 30, 1981.)

42. Mr. T.P. Reid: Of the total advertising

budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year for the Ministry of Northern Affairs, what were the total media costs incurred during the period from February 1, 1981, to March 19, 1981? (April 30, 1981.)

43. Mr. J.A. Reed: Of the total advertising budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year for the Ministry of Energy, what were the total media costs incurred during the period from February 1, 1981, to March 19, 1981? (April 30, 1981.)

44. Mr. Peterson: Of the total advertising budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year for the Ministry of Treasury and Economics, what were the total media costs incurred during the period from February 1, 1981, to March 19, 1981? (April 30, 1981.)

45. Mr. McEwen: Of the total advertising budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year for the Ministry of Housing, what were the total media costs incurred during the period from February 1, 1981, to March 19, 1981? (April 30, 1981.)

46. Mr. Mancini: Of the total advertising budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year for the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, what were the total media costs incurred during the period from February 1, 1981, to March 19, 1981? (April 30, 1981.)

47. Mr. Kerrio: Of the total advertising budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year for the Ministry of the Environment, what were the total media costs incurred during the period from February 1, 1981, to March 19, 1981? (April 30, 1981.)

48. Mr. Haggerty: Of the total advertising budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year for the Ministry of Revenue, what were the total media costs incurred during the period from February 1, 1981, to March 19, 1981? (April 30, 1981.)

49. Mr. Elston: Of the total advertising budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year for the Ministry of the Solicitor General, what were the total media costs incurred during the period from February 1, 1981, to March 19, 1981? (April 30, 1981.)

50. Mr. Edighoffer: Of the total advertising budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year for the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, what were the total media costs incurred during the period from February 1, 1981, to March 19, 1981? (April 30, 1981.)

51. Mr. Eakins: Of the total advertising budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year for the Ministry of Natural Resources, what were the total media costs incurred during the period from February 1, 1981, to March 19, 1981? (April 30, 1981.)

52. Mr. Cunningham: Of the total advertising budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year for the Ministry of Industry and Tourism, what were the total media costs incurred during the period from February 1, 1981, to March 19, 1981? (April 30, 1981.)

53. Ms. Copps: Of the total advertising budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year for the Ministry of Labour, what were the total media costs incurred during the period from February 1, 1981, to March 19, 1981? (April 30, 1981.)

54. Mr. Breithaupt: Of the total advertising budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year for the Ministry of the Attorney General, what were the total media costs incurred during the period from February 1, 1981, to March 19, 1981? (April 30, 1981.)

55. Mr. Bradley: Of the total advertising budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year for the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, what were the total media costs incurred during the period from February 1, 1981, to March 19, 1981? (April 30, 1981.)

56. Mr. Boudria: Of the total advertising budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year for the Ministry of Government Services, what were the total media costs incurred during the period from February 1, 1981, to March 19, 1981? (April 30, 1981.)

57. Mr. Conway: Of the total advertising budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year for the Ministry of Community and Social Services, what were the total media costs incurred during the period from February 1, 1981, to March 19, 1981? (April 30, 1981.)

58. Mr. Ruprecht: 1. What was the total advertising budget for the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development and its agencies, boards and commissions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1981? 2. What was the comparable advertising budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980? 3. What advertising agencies were employed? 4. Were tenders let for the account? 5. Would you provide a copy of the material used in all the promotions such as brochures, radio and television scripts, direct mailings and any other promotional material? (April 30, 1981.)

59. Mr. McGuigan: 1. What was the total advertising budget for the Provincial Secretariat for Resources Development and its agencies,

boards and commissions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1981? 2. What was the comparable advertising budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980? 3. What advertising agencies were employed? 4. Were tenders let for the account? 5. Would you provide a copy of the material used in all the promotions such as brochures, radio and television scripts, direct mailings and any other promotional material? (April 30, 1981.)

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The information requested will require some time to complete. The answers will be forthcoming at or about mid-June.

CONTENTS

Friday May 8, 1981

Hotel inspection, point of privilege, Mr. Smith, Mr. McMurtry, Mr. Speaker. 501

Minister's remarks, point of privilege, Mr. Van Horne, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Renwick. 502

Statements by the ministry

Snow, Hon. J. W., Minister of Transportation and Communications:

Public Commercial Vehicles Act review committee. 502

Walker, Hon. G. W., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Provincial Secretary for Justice:

Automobile insurance surcharges. 503

McMurtry, Hon. R. R., Attorney General and Solicitor General:

Police protective vests. 503

Police Week. 504

Oral questions

Davis, Hon. W. G., Premier:

Interest rates, Mr. Smith, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Peterson. 504

Interest rates, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Mancini. 508

Housing prices, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ruprecht. 509

Child-rearing benefits, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Cassidy. 510

Dredging case, Mr. Renwick. 512

Cayuga landfill site, Mr. G.I. Miller, Ms. Bryden. 514

Elgie, Hon. R. G., Minister of Labour:

Asbestosis benefits, Mr. R.F. Johnston. 511

Ramsay, Hon. R. H., Provincial Secretary for Resources Development:

Pits and quarries controls, Mr. Swart. 515

Snow, Hon. J. W., Minister of Transportation and Communications:

Resignation of UTDC consultant, Ms. Copps. 511

Provincial rail policy, Mr. Mancini. 512

Walker, Hon. G. W., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Provincial Secretary for Justice:

Nursing home information, Mr. Smith, Mr. Cooke. 506

Coastal International Limited, Mr. Philip, Mr. Renwick. 512

Throne speech debate

Mr. Charlton. 516

Mr. Kells. 524

Adjournment. 530

Appendix: answers to questions on Notice Paper. 531

Townsend development, questions of Mr. Bennett: Mr. Nixon. 531

Interim answers. 532

Teacher employment and student enrolment, questions of Miss Stephenson: Mr. Nixon. 531

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
Copps, S. M. (Hamilton Centre L)
Davis, Hon. W. G.; Premier (Brampton PC)
Elgie, Hon. R. G.; Minister of Labour (York East PC)
Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
Kells, M. C. (Humber PC)
Mancini, R. (Essex South L)
McMurtry, Hon. R. R.; Attorney General and Solicitor General (Eglinton PC)
Miller, G. I. (Haldimand-Norfolk L)
Peterson, D. R. (London Centre L)
Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. R. H.; Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Sault Ste. Marie PC)
Renwick, J. A. (Riverdale NDP)
Ruprecht, T. (Parkdale L)
Smith, S. L. (Hamilton West L)
Snow, Hon. J. W.; Minister of Transportation and Communications (Oakville PC)
Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Turner, Hon. J. M.; Speaker (Peterborough PC)
Van Horne, R. G. (London North L)
Walker, Hon. G. W.; Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Provincial Secretary for Justice (London South PC)

Ontario

No. 16

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



First Session, Thirty-Second Parliament
Monday, May 11, 1981

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

Hansard subscription price is $15.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Central Purchasing Service, Print Procurement Section, Ministry of Government Services, 8th Floor, Ferguson Block, Parliament Buildings, Toronto M7A 1N3. Phone (416) 965-2238.

Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Monday, May 11, 1981

The House met at 2:03 p.m.

Prayers.

HOTEL INSPECTION

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: You will recall the exchange I had with the Solicitor General (Mr. McMurtry) when I pointed out that, in response to my questions and suggestions, he indicated in the House he preferred the status quo with regard to the method of inspecting hotels in terms of fire safety. He then went out and told the press a different story.

In the Globe and Mail of May 9, the Solicitor General has added insult to injury by saying the reason he changed his statement is the fact that the coroner, Dr. Ross Bennett, made the very recommendation made in the House. He said, "Dr. Smith may think in his wonderful world of psychiatry that I should have anticipated the recommendations of the inquest jury."

I will leave aside the rather silly slur on the professional field and simply point out that the question I asked in the House quoted two previous coroners' reports in which the wording was absolutely identical to the coroner's report by Dr. Ross Bennett. One of the reasons the wording was identical is that, of the two reports I quoted, the one from the hotel fire in Paris, Ontario, was the report of the same Dr. Ross Bennett who used exactly the same words then. They were the very words I put to this House.

The idea was scoffed at by the Solicitor General here, but then, outside the door, once he heard the same Dr. Ross Bennett say the same things I quoted, and say them yet again after another tragic loss of life, he suddenly saw the wisdom in the recommendations he scoffed at here.

I continue to say, Mr. Speaker, for your consideration, that in this House we ought to treat the suggestions and questions of members from all parts of this House with reasonable respect and consideration, and not simply make light of them and then walk out the door and treat the very same questions coming from other persons in a more serious and sometimes totally different manner with regard to the response.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much. I am sure the Solicitor General may want to comment on that point of privilege when he comes in.

ORAL QUESTIONS

POLICE CAR CHASES

Mr. Smith: I have a question I wanted to ask the Solicitor General (Mr. McMurtry), Mr. Speaker—

Hon. Mr. Davis: He will be here a minute.

Mr. Smith: All right. I have a question for the Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell).

Hon. Mr. Davis: He will not be here.

Mr. Smith: Well, I will start by asking a question of the Premier, since I do not see the Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. Walker) here either.

Is the Premier aware of the police chase that occurred at 10:55 a.m. on Saturday within the Brant-Haldimand-Norfolk county line, southwest of Caledonia, a police chase in which a car was pursued apparently for no reason other than the fact that it did not have proper licence plates, and a chase in which it would appear a head-on collision occurred?

As I am asking the question, I will redirect it to the Solicitor General: This is in regard to the police chase within the Brant-Haldimand-Norfolk county line at 10:55 a.m. on Saturday, in which a car was pursued because it did not have a licence plate and in which the police vehicle apparently engaged in a head-on collision with an innocent bystander coming in the opposite direction. The innocent bystander is now in hospital with multiple injuries, and it is my understanding that the police constable has been charged with failing to share the roadway.

Will the Solicitor General not agree that the time has come to give very clear guidelines of a kind that would discourage police chases except where there is a balance of reason and probable reason to believe that the person being pursued is a dangerous criminal? Instead of the present guidelines, which say that if the police do not chase they will be neglecting their duty, is it not time we had stronger guidelines saying the police must chase, just as the discarge a firearm, only when they have reason to be

seriously concerned with the potential danger of the person being pursued?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition really quite seriously distorts what the present guidelines state. His description of the guidelines just does not happen to coincide with fact.

There are very careful guidelines, some of which I have tabled in the House, laid down with respect to police chases and making it very clear that this very difficult decision that must be entered upon by an individual police officer must be a decision that is made very carefully, and the safety of individuals, not only the person being chased but also innocent bystanders in particular, must be given the highest of priorities before a police officer engages in such a chase. Obviously, innocent bystanders must be protected from the tragedies that sometimes occur as a result of these chases.

There are very careful guidelines laid down as to the weight that public safety generally must be given with respect to this particular undertaking.

I do not know the circumstances of the incident the Leader of the Opposition has just referred the House to, and I will endeavour to obtain very quickly full particulars of that incident. In the meantime, through the Ontario Police Commission, we have made it clear to all police forces that they are to report to the police commission on a regular basis with respect to any police chases that are engaged in so that the police commission may monitor this situation very carefully.

2:10 p.m.

I have said time and time again, if anyone has any useful suggestions as to how we can strengthen these guidelines, apart from what the police commission has already done in recent years, we are always quite prepared to receive these suggestions.

But in the final analysis, I must emphasize that these decisions obviously have to be made within a matter of moments, often split seconds, and it does require a great deal of individual judgement. There are no better guidelines available—we have looked at guidelines from every other jurisdiction in North America and we do not know of any force that has better guidelines.

I want to emphasize once again that in the final analysis it has to depend upon the judgement of the individual police officer, and no guidelines by themselves are going to be anything more than guidelines. In other words, they are not going to be able to make that very difficult decsion for the officer.

It is fair to say that the police forces in this province are very concerned about this issue, but again I do not think any member of the House simply wants the Ministry of the Solicitor General to put a ban on police chases.

Mr. Smith: Given the fact that it would seem as many people have been killed in high-speed police chases in Ontario as by the discharge of firearms by the police, and that far more have been injured in high-speed police chases than by the discharge of firearms, why will the Solicitor General not have a set of guidelines at least as stringent as those that apply to the discharge of firearms? Will he, for instance, compare the—

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: They are.

Mr. Smith: The minister says they are, but they are not. Will he take a moment to look at the memorandum issued by Judge T. J. Graham, chairman of the Ontario Police Commission, on November 1, 1979? On the subject of high-speed chases it says, "Regardless of the circumstances, the police officer would be derelict in his duty if he failed to give pursuit." Compare that comment to one on page four of the very same memo where Judge Graham says, "We should reiterate that a police officer should refrain from discharging his firearm unless to effect the apprehension, when other means are insufficient, of a person whom he, on reasonable and probable grounds, believes to be dangerous."

The "reasonable and probable grounds" to believe the person to be dangerous is the difference. This differs very much with, for instance, the Arkansas rules, which say, basically, that what is involved is "a judgement decision for the officer, similar in many respects to the problem of when to use a firearm. For this reason, high-speed chases are discouraged but not prohibited. They are sometimes necessary, but not often. It is highly unlikely that you will be asked why you did not chase a speeder. There is always tomorrow."

According to Judge Graham, a police officer would be neglecting his duty if he failed to give pursuit. There is a very different emphasis. Will the Solicitor General care to review his policy in this regard?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: The guidelines have to be looked at in the total context, rather than just taking a sentence—if it does appear in the guidelines—quite out of context. Obviously the guidelines make it very clear that in certain

circumstances the police should not engage in high-speed chases. There are no guidelines that simply say in absolute terms, "You are in dereliction of your duty if you do not engage in a high-speed chase."

Mr. Ruston: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary on the same matter: We had a similar case in the Windsor area a week ago where a motorcyclist had been going 17 kilometres over the speed limit and two police cars went after him. The motorcycle ended up in the ditch after being rammed by one of the police cars. This was not intentional, of course, but it happened.

Is a speed of 17 kilometres over the speed limit so bad that we have to take after someone with two cars?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member is asking me to look into the circumstances of that particular chase, I will be happy to do so.

Mr. Breaugh: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: I want to ask the minister why he continues to allow this process to occur. He must be aware that police officers are driving vehicles at high speeds when they are not designed or maintained for high-speed chases. The second major fault is that most police officers do not have any real training in giving chase at high speeds.

Why does he allow that kind of maniacal procedure to continue in Ontario? Not only are his guidelines wrong, but also the vehicles they are driving are not equipped for high speeds and most of the officers do not have any training at all in that.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, the question is based on a lot of false premises; so I am not going to dignify it by answering it.

ASTRA/RE-MOR

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

The minister will recall the questions that I raised in this House following the publication of Bimonthly Reports concerning some serious allegations about the Ontario Securities Commission and its handling, virtually from beginning to end, of the Astra Trust matter. It would now appear the standing committee on administration of justice, which is looking at the report of the ministry, seems unwilling, at least in the short run, to look at these matters.

Given the promise the minister made to respond to those allegations in this House, may I ask the minister why it is taking him so long to come up with the response of the Ontario Securities Commission?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I turned the copy of Bimonthly Reports over to the Ontario Securities Commission, and it has been looking at the questions posed in it. The document was some 10 pages long and closely typewritten. I bet it must be close to 10,000 words in length.

The document contains many allegations which members of the Ontario Securities Commission told me were a blend of a whole range of half-truths, part truths, total truths, and inaccuracies. The commission is sorting through many of the questions that have been posed, and in due course I am sure will have a response for the honourable member. I will be glad to provide that response once the moment arrives and it arrives.

Mr. Smith: Does the minister consider it satisfactory to walk into this House a week or 10 days after this matter was first broached and simply give a kind of hearsay report that typifies that 10,000-word study, as he calls it, as simply half-truths and untruths and things of this kind, rather than present point-by-point responses to very serious allegations that will serve to undermine confidence in our regulatory authorities unless dealt with efficiently, effectively and openly?

Why is the minister not prepared to respond to those allegations right here in this House, having had plenty of time by now to respond to the questions, which surely are not poorly understood by members of the securities commission?

Hon. Mr. Walker: These matters will all come to light in due course. Some of them are not revelations. A good many of them were brought out in the discussions of last December and January. I anticipate that before long we should have some response from the commission.

Mr. Swart: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Is the minister prepared to make a request to the justice committee to reinstitute and finish the hearings it started so it could consider this document along with a lot of other matters still to be considered by that committee?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, consideration of this whole matter was before the justice committee last Thursday. I think the member was there until he got into a huff and stomped out.

All I can say is that during that period of time a number of matters were considered. The

justice committee in its wisdom considered recommendations made by the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley), as well as some amendments made by the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) and ultimately concluded that more information was needed on its part. It solicited that information by a request to the ministries of the Attorney General and Consumer and Commercial Relations. As a result, we will be responding in due course. I hope the honourable member is at the meeting when the response occurs.

2:20 p.m.

Mr. Breithaupt: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Since the justice committee has asked for a status report on the circumstances with respect to both criminal matters and the civil charges, will the minister have available for the justice committee a status report from the Ontario Securities Commission as to the truth or otherwise of the various allegations in the report that my leader referred to, so that the whole matter can proceed, one hopes, as quickly and thoroughly as possible, perhaps in the last week of the month?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that the member raised that question. That was not part of the resolution that came from the justice committee. I have not received their letter from the clerk, but I presume it will only be a matter of time before I get the letter. When I get that letter I will respond directly to it.

At the moment, I understand that it was asking the Attorney General's ministry for a status report on the criminal proceedings and presumably of the civil proceedings. In the case of our ministry, it was asking for a status report of the negotiations that are proceeding.

I will be responding directly to the letter that is sent to me from the clerk of the justice committee. It may or may not be the case that it happens to contain some additional matters that are perhaps unrelated, but at the moment I intend only to respond to the letter from the committee as requested.

FRENCH ELECTION

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, members of the New Democratic Party caucus today are all wearing the red roses which were a symbol of Franois Mitterrand in the recent presidential election campaign in France.

I hope all members will join with me in extending congratulations to the new President of France, particulary as it indicates that the swing of the pendulum in a rightward direction has now come to an end in that country; that progressive forces have triumphed politically there, as they will in Ontario.

I will send a letter to the new President of France saying that, even if the Premier (Mr. Davis) is not quite prepared to join in, we congratulate him on his victory.

It was a strongly progressive policy that Mr. Mitterrand was elected on.

PLANT SHUTDOWNS

Mr. Cassidy: In that vein, Mr. Speaker, and given the need to intervene to protect workers in the province, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Labour.

Is the Minister of Labour aware that his own ministry's statistics indicate that 23 plant closures affecting 5,443 workers have occurred or have been announced in the first three months of this year, and that at this rate we will have 90 plant closures in 1981, compared with the 68 that occurred in 1980?

Since the plant closures that have taken place this year have been in many industries, and have not just focused on the automotive industry, will the minister now undertake to implement the points that were being studied by the select committee on plant shutdowns and employee entitlements prior to the election, specifically with regard to an obligation on corporations to justify plant closures, an obligation to give more adequate advance notice and to provide pension protection, in addition to the promises made about severance pay?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure where the honourable member got his figures. I suspect they are similar to mine, but my recollection is that there have been something in the neighbourhood of 19 complete or partial closures over the first four months of this year.

To the best of my recollection, some eight or nine of those have been bankruptcies or insolvencies, and the remainder have primarily been Canadian corporations that have closed or moved for some reason or another, and there have been some that have been multinational.

I think it is interesting to note, however, that in some of those closures it simply has been a matter of a product that no longer has a market. But let me assure the member that in each of those situations the workers have been adequately protected, either by severance pay or by being offered alternative employment in that company.

In general, I may say that the record of

employer concern with regard to their employees over the past four months has been admirable.

Mr. Cassidy: Whether a company is Canadian or multinational, whatever the reasons they may have decided to close down, does not surely rule out the need for justification. Will the minister comment specifically and explain why last October, at a time of minority government, he announced the creation of the post of layoffs co-ordinator, which co-ordinator would make immediate contact with management and with employees to obtain all pertinent information to assess the possibility of maintaining an operation that is the subject of a possible shutdown?

Can the minister explain why it is that when I asked last week about the Harlequin Enterprises shutdown in Stratford, the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Grossman) said the government is not in the business of reviewing decisions made by companies carrying on business in our economy?

Now that we have a majority government, is the policy of the government, as the Minister of Labour announced last fall, that the layoffs co-ordinator would try to keep the enterprise open, or has he adopted the hands-off attitude that was enunciated last week by the Minister of Industry and Tourism?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I have had numerous conversations with the Minister of Industry and Tourism. I suspect that either the member did not understand what he said or he was not listening, because I know very accurately that both the plant shutdowns committee and the Minister of Industry and Tourism and his staff are actively involved in efforts on many occasions to try to keep companies viable if that is a reasonable option. That is happening today. Perhaps that is why employment in this province continues to rise as opposed to the number of unemployed, which is dropping.

I have to tell the honourable member that it still remains the function of the plant closure committee of my ministry to approach matters exactly as I outlined to him last fall. They do it diligently. I may say they are involved in some innovative projects at the moment which we see as very progressive.

Ms. Copps: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: I know this question was directed to the Premier earlier, but it has never actually been directed to the Minister of Labour. When is the minister going to stand by his promise to introduce severance pay retroactive to January 1, 1980?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I would have thought the member would have understood that there are those of us who obey and those of us who command. The Premier answered that question very clearly. He said legislation would be introduced.

Mr. Cassidy: If I can seek some clarity from the minister: Given the fact that the shutdowns and layoffs are continuing to occur, on May 5 of this year the Minister of Industry and Tourism stated: "May I say that I can only repeat what I have said earlier. This government is not in the business of reviewing decisions made by companies carrying on business in our economy."

In view of the contradiction with what the minister had to say in October and what the minister said just now, did the minister tell the Minister of Industry and Tourism that his statement was in error, that that is not the policy of the government, and that the policy is what the Minister of Labour has said? Which of the two ministers are we to believe and which policy are the companies in the province to follow?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Your question was, would I tell them to stay open.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, can I answer this question, or will that be disturbing the House? I do not want to get into anything that will disturb the repartee that is taking place.

Mr. Speaker: You may proceed.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: As I understand it from the Minister of Industry and Tourism, who has just loudly proclaimed his view, I understand the member addressed a question to him which related to whether he would force companies to stay open. It is true, he will not be doing that. But the representatives of his ministry and the representatives of the plant shutdowns committee of my ministry are in conversation with companies whenever there is a suggestion that there may be a closure, to see whether any alternatives to that closure are possible. Let me assure the member that happens.

CANADA HOMES

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I have a new question of the Minister of Housing. I wish to draw to the attention of the House the presence in the gallery here of 11 people representing families who last August put $1,000 down to buy homes from Canada Homes in the Milliken subdivision in Scarborough and who this week

have received a letter from a company related to the housing contractor, Cedarland Properties, which informs them that their application for a mortgage loan had been declined and that they no longer have a deal.

2:30 p.m.

I want to ask the Minister of Housing whether he is aware of ths case, where people bought in good faith, where they qualified for a loan, where they were assured over the period from August up until last week that they would have a home, but they are now being confronted with impossible conditions, being told that the mortgage eligibility will be measured at interest rates three or four points above the mortgage rate that they have been told they get the mortage at, or being asked to come up with money up front to keep their homes when that was not a part of the original deal.

Is it the minister's opinion that this is a part of the normal workings of the marketplace that he has told us about on so many occasions, or will the minister undertake to step in to ensure that these families and 50 other families in a similar situation will get the homes they contracted for last summer?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the leader of the third party is well aware, or he should be, that this particular question should not be directed to the Minister of Housing but is one for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Walker).

Mr. Smith: Redirect it then.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, there are very few people in Ontario who took the advice of the leader of the Liberal Party on March 19, and I do not intend to take it this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I am indicating very clearly to the leader of the third party that he should know, after the time he has been around here, that this is a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, and may I say that very ministry is meeting at this time with those in the development industry that are affected in this particular problem.

Mr. Cassidy: Redirect, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, the matter came to our attention on Friday, and there has been a direct involvement in our ministry in terms of gathering the facts on the matter. As the Minister of Housing has indicated, the matter is being considered at this moment with a group in the Ministry of Housing and officials of Canada Homes. Once we have had a chance to see what the facts are, we will be able to offer a more definitive comment.

Mr. Cassidy: Since the Minister of Housing refuses to get involved with this, but since the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations is involved, does the minister consider that these people, some of whom are represented here, have a right to have the homes for which they contracted back in August; that having acted prudently and in good faith to buy a home then, before the recent very massive escalation, they should be able to have the houses at the prices at which the contractor promised to sell the houses to them; and that it is the responsibility of the government and of his ministry to step in on behalf of those particular purchasers to make sure they do not find themselves pushed out of their homes by a builder who simply wants to exploit the current market position to take unjustified and unwarranted profits at their loss?

Hon. Mr. Walker: If we can help to settle this matter, we are going to settle it. Certainly we feel that the contracts signed back in August 1980 should be carried out in total. I think our problem is one of jurisdiction and whether we are the ones who can legitimately move in. At the moment we are trying to find a way that we can be a part of it.

We are trying to help and, if we can help in the situation, we will. If we are not permitted to help because of the way the legislation is drafted or because of our involvement, then that may have to be the case, because essentially it is a contractual situation. But if we can be of help, we intend to be.

Mr. Smith: Since it would appear from the press, Mr. Speaker, and we do not have all the details, that a conditional offer of purchase was signed by the prospective buyers and was conditional upon their getting a mortgage, but from a named company that may not have been at arm's length from the vendor. does the minister not feel that there should be some protection, either in law at present or to be introduced quickly into law, to make it impossible for a vendor to offer that kind of contract to be signed which clearly protects the vendor and is self-serving if the mortgage company is not at arm's length and which obviously gives no protection at all to the purchaser in this regard?

If the two institutions, the vendor and the lending institution, are not at arm's length from

one another, does the minister not see the collusion that is possible and the way in which the ordinary citizen can be taken advantage of?

Hon. Mr. Walker: That is a very confusing question, Mr. Speaker. The fact of the matter is that at the moment there is no indication to bear out that there is collusion, if there is any collusion. Indeed, there may be absolutely no issue of collusion. It may well all work out and we hope that it does work out.

Generally speaking, the issues of contract are between the person who signs the contract, in this case the builder, and the person who is purchasing. It is basically a question of contract. As I say, if our legislation is such that it permits us to get involved in the matter and resolve the matter, and even if it does not, if we are able to resolve it in a way that is satisfactory to many of the people who are represented here today, then we will solve the problem.

I would say part of the problem has to do with this whole question of interest rates. While I am not trying to pass the buck, all I can really say is that with interest rates varying the way they are, it has a lot of effect on our whole system.

MINISTER'S RESPONSE

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: For the last week or so the members on this side of the House have been offended by the ostrich-like, head-in-the-sand nature of the Minister of Housing in regard to the housing crisis in Metro. Today I would like to present him with proper adornments to come into this House. If he wears them every day, he may be the prettiest member and the prettiest Minister of Housing we have ever had in this House.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, in response, I think the member for Scarborough West is a better looking Indian than anybody around here, and I send them right back to him. I think he would be more appropriate in them. Thank you.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: Did the minister say "a better looking Indian"? Is that what he said? Did you hear the minister, Mr. Speaker?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, to elaborate on my remarks, I said the ostrich feathers that the member for Scarborough West sent over to me would look better on the member than on me. If I happened to insult or upset somebody wth my remarks relating to Indians, I was thinking of an Indian band. I am not quite sure how to describe the way the member carries on around here at times, but an ostrich he is.

Mr. Smith: On the point of privilege, having sat and listened to the minister express his views with regard to women a few days ago, may I ask you, Mr. Speaker, to point out to the minister when you have a chance to chat with him that our native people do not in fact go around the province wearing these huge ostrich plumes. In point of fact, the reference made to feathers and Indians is just another example of the kind of stereotyped thinking and racist remarks this House can do without.

Mr. Speaker: The minister has already withdrawn his remarks. I think quite enough has been said.

FORD WORKERS

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Is the minister aware that about 30 American workers of the Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Michigan, have been working for some time at the new Essex aluminum casting plant in Windsor despite the fact that neither Canada Manpower nor the Department of Employment and Immigration is aware of anyone from the United States working at that facility? Since thousands of Ford workers in Windsor remain on indefinite layoff, would the minister check the situation and ensure that the use of these workers is not taking jobs from Canadians, and would he remind Ford that permission is required for any foreign employment activity in Canada?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I have no way of knowing if the facts are accurate as the member has stated them, but I am sure he has contacted the Minister of Employment and Immigration. If he wishes me to do so as well, I will be pleased to.

2:40 p.m.

Mr. Wrye: Considering the fact that this government contributed some $28 million to the Ford project, I would have hoped that the minister would take a more serious look at the use of non-Canadian workers there. Ford in Oakville says this work is only of a temporary and limited nature. Will the minister assure himself that it is indeed only temporary, and will he tell the House why such skills for the startup operation of a plant which was on the drawing board some three years ago can only be imported and why no Canadians are qualified to do this work?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: First of all, I am sure the member did not mean it, but if he was seriously suggesting I do not care about the plight of

workers in this province, I take offence at that. If he did mean it, then we have a problem with each other. I will be pleased to make inquiries into the problem he has outlined and will be glad to report to him. I would ask the member not to suggest that I do not have an interest in the problems related to workers in this province.

Mr. Cooke: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: We have brought this matter to the attention of the Minister of Labour on several occasions—I have, as has my former colleague Ted Bounsall—yet they continue to happen. Can the Minister of Labour not suggest to the immigration department, controlled by the party of my friends to the right, that proper procedures should be put in place so that we take advantage of workers who are unemployed in the Windsor area first, and so that we do not have these temporary problems that are discovered, investigated and then three months later we find out the workers should not have been allowed to work in the Windsor area, that we did have Canadians, and by that time it is too late?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, the member is quite right. There have been other occasions and we have talked about them. I said they had been satisfactorily explained and that suitable inquiries had been made. I have indicated I will make inquiries about this new situation and I trust the member will as well, or has, if he has a concern about it.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Martel: I have a question of the Provincial Secretary for Justice, in view of the absence of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), regarding the conviction of Thyssen Mining for four violations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, for which the company was fined the magnanimous sum of $250 on conviction. Does the minister agree with the comments of the judge at the hearing where he said, one, that the Ontario—

Interjections.

Mr. Martel: Does the Premier want the floor?

Interjections.

Mr. Martel: Then why doesn't he desist?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the member please continue.

Mr. Martel: He makes light of question period all the time.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Mr. Martel, you will continue with your question.

Mr. Martel: Would the minister agree with the judge of the provincial court hearing these cases who said that the Occupational Health and Safety Act was just another piece of social legislation and, secondly, that in his opinion the workers were more responsible for safety than companies are and that he does not believe fines should be in accordance with ability to pay?

Does the minister believe in that sort of comment? I ask because I wrote the minister on January 23 and I am still awaiting a response.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that the member for Sudbury East has been taking so many grumpy pills lately. I would be pleased if he returned to his original self.

Mr. T. P. Reid: If the minister had to sit beside Cassidy, he would be grumpy too.

Hon. Mr. Walker: I don't think it is very fair to make that kind of comment about his leader. His cross is heavy enough to bear as it is.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The minister will continue.

Hon. Mr. Walker: The learned judge is entitled to whatever comments he may wish to make. I am not about to pass judgement on whether a judge says something or whether or not it is proper for him to say something. He has made his comments. They are his and he will have to live with those comments.

Mr. Martel: Since we all know—and the Minister of Labour knows more than anyone else—that legislation did not put the onus on the employee but rather focused the onus on the employer, does the minister not think it is essential that we make sure judges are aware that is where the onus lies—not with the workers—when meting out this type of judgement?

Hon. Mr. Walker: I don't think one can use this type of situation to suggest in any way that the person who is an employee of a plant has to shirk his duties to make sure it is a safe situation. Indeed, as I understand the Occupational Health and Safety Act, it actually makes reference to the fact that employees will draw it to the attention of the appropriate people whenever there is an incident or a situation that would compromise safety. One cannot take away the individual responsibility here and I do not think the member should be trying that.

INTEREST RATES

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Is the

minister aware of the tactics being employed by some bankers whereby farmers, instead of receiving an extension to their operating loans, are being compelled to extend their mortgages in order to obtain that money to operate their farms from one year to the next?

If he is aware of this, is there anything this government can do to check the tremendous power of these banks? Does he not think it is time an independent review agency is set up to look at what is going on within the lending institutions and the way they are treating the farmers so we can stop any further foreclosures and bankruptcies until the cases are studied carefully?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, in some cases this is a very serious situation. It is not something to be used as a political football. It is something that all members of the House should look at.

Mr. Smith: If it is serious we should not discuss it, is that the idea?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: No, though I think the member's party might have some influence with the government at Ottawa which has the authority to amend the Bank Act.

Last week this House was made aware that the federal Minister of Agriculture had called a meeting of the provincial ministers for Wednesday, May 13, 1981. It is my understanding the ministers from the prairie provinces had a meeting set up regarding freight rates and they responded. I got the message late Saturday night asking if I would go tomorrow morning. I am going to be in Ottawa tomorrow. I am putting together my presentation and it will include everything the honourable member has mentioned.

Mr. Riddell: The seriousness of the situation, as the minister well knows, is shown by the fact that once the mortgages have been extended the bankers simply march in and foreclose on these farmers. I think we have to stop this. If interest rates go to 22 per cent or even 25 per cent as is predicted, then we are going to see a lot of farms come on the market for sale.

Does the minister not think there would be some merit in calling a meeting of all the legislative members here who have some agricultural background so we may help him prepare this socalled presentation that he is going to be making at the first ministers' conference?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, I just happened to take time to read the speeches made by opposition critics in the last two weeks and I have tried to include in my brief anything I think is of importance.

TORONTO STOCKYARDS

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I have a new question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food regarding something that is on page 21 of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program and which the government spoke of during the election campaign. It says the Toronto stockyards is a core facility for much of Ontario's meat processing industry and that it should be located in the optimum location. The government is going to sit down—contemplate that—with interested parties to work out a long-range plan for the stockyards.

2:50 p.m.

Since the minister has indicated on CBC radio programs that this responsibility rests wholly and squarely with him, can he report whether any sitting down has taken place, if so with whom, and what is the time frame within which he is operating for this long-range planning and switching of the stockyards from the west end of Toronto to some site normally referred to as north of Toronto?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, in response to the honourable member, I do not believe he read the complete statement made under the BILD program. I believe he has taken some of that a little out of context. I think a few more words could have been put in. I have met with my staff, we have had dialogues and there will be other dialogues along the way with the appropriate people.

Mr. MacDonald: Who are the appropriate people? Since this meeting with the minister's staff presumably took place after the election when he made that cavalier promise without much consideration of anybody other than perhaps his staff, whom is he planning to sit down with and when—plain and simple, whom and when?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: The date has not been set. I will meet with the people who are really concerned about the situation.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations has the answer to a question previously asked.

CANADA HOMES

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, you will remember a few moments ago the member for

Ottawa Centre and the member for Hamilton West raised questions involving the matter in the town of Markham, the question of Canada Homes and Cedarland Properties. I indicated officials of our ministry were meeting right this minute with the concerned parties, the developer and the aggrieved parties.

In our effort to deliver immediate action, I can say the matter has now been settled to the satisfaction, I understand, of the prospective home purchasers.

Mr. Speaker: A new question, Mr. Boudria.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, do we not have the right to put supplementaries when there is an answer to a question previously asked?

Mr. Speaker: No, there is no supplementary. The minister was answering a question which was previously asked. I had already recognized Mr. Boudria with a new question.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: It has been the custom in this House that when a minister replies to a question previously asked it is open for an honourable member to place a supplementary after the minister makes his reply. That is what I wish to do now. Is the Speaker saying that is not in order?

Mr. Speaker: No, I am not. What I am saying quite clearly is that I had recognized Mr. Boudria on a new question since he stood up first. If you wish to ask the minister a new question, you may do so.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, obviously it would be the member for Prescott-Russell's turn in the rotation unless there was a supplementary. Is it not the Speaker's intention to recognize supplementaries? I did not have the chance to indicate that mine was a supplementary prior to your recognizing the member for Prescott-Russell.

Mr. Speaker: That was exactly the point. I had already recognized Mr. Boudria when he stood up.

Mr. Nixon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I think there has been some misunderstanding in that the minister, when he got up supposedly to answer a question previously asked, had already answered it to the best of his ability a few moments ago. Somebody just passed him some additional information and he gratuitously wanted to get up and tell everybody what a good boy he was. It was not on the basis of a question previously asked another day, which is the basis of the rule.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to you that while the information was welcome indeed, the minister might well have chosen a proper time consonant with the rules when he could have conveyed the information and we would not have had this difficulty.

Mr. Speaker: That was exactly the point. The minister had in fact dealt with the question earlier. I recognize Mr. Boudria.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, it has been the custom in question period in this House for ministers to respond to questions from previous days, and when such a question has been responded to, for the Speaker to allow a supplementary question based on the response given by the minister. Since that is what has occurred I would urge the Speaker to allow that practice, which has been going on for years, to continue, and not to change the ruling now.

Mr. Speaker: I am not, with all respect, changing the rules. I am making a ruling on the basis of a question that was a current question. It was not a question which had been previously asked. I will hear Mr. Boudria with a new question.

Mr. Cassidy: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I just want to bring to the attention of the Speaker and the minister that the purchasers of homes in the Canada Homes development who came to this Legislature today have neither met with the minister nor with his officials, nor are they aware of a settlement. If a settlement has been reached they welcome it, but they certainly want to be involved and not to be kept out in the cold like that.

GOVERNMENT PURCHASING

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Government Services. During the election campaign of 1967, this government announced the establishment of a central agency within the Ministry of Government Services which would co-ordinate all government purchasing activity and save millions of dollars. Is the minister aware that 14 years later the central purchasing department in this ministry was responsible for $26 million of purchases out of total ministerial purchases of $700 million? Can the minister tell us whether there are any plans to give the central purchasing unit in his ministry the mandate it was promised 14 years ago?

Hon. Mr. Wiseman: Mr. Speaker, we continue to work towards central purchasing. As the honourable member has said, we have not been successful in turning all of the various

ministries over to central purchasing, but we will try to fulfil that promise in the next few years.

Mr. Boudria: The centralizing of government purchasing was intended to produce savings of $10 million in 1967. Given that the budget has increased from $2 billion to $16 billion since then, and in the light of the enormous potential for saving money which the promised measure would produce—namely, $80 million by the government's own figures—I would ask the minister whether he has made any representation to the present Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) to deal, in his current budget, with his predecessor's promise?

Hon. Mr. Wiseman: Mr. Speaker, our estimates will be coming up in about two weeks. I understand the honourable member who asked the question will be his party's critic of my ministry. Perhaps he would raise this question again during the estimates, when I will be able to give him a fuller answer.

Mr. Laughren: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Is the minister aware that on the eve of the 1975 election a promise was made by his government, through the Premier (Mr. Premier), that the injured workers of northeastern Ontario, indeed of all northern Ontario, would have a vocational rehabilitation centre in Sudbury? Could he tell us when he intends to fulfil that promise?

Hon. Mr. Wiseman: Mr. Speaker, I believe that is a new question. I do not have that information with me, but I can get the member the answer to it at a later time, or he can raise it again in estimates. It really was not a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Education has the answer to a question which was asked previously.

3 p.m.

NURSING APPLICATIONS

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it is as Minister of Colleges and Universities that I respond to a question which was raised last Thursday, I gather, by the member for Hamilton West in which he very carefully distorted some information which was provided by a night clerk in the registrar's office in answer to a telephone call, during which she made a comment to the effect that the office was being deluged with applications and that there were a number of applications lying around in bundles on the floor of the office.

The actual procedure which is followed with this course of nursing—as it is at all other community colleges with the courses in which there is a limited enrolment because of the requirement for clinical experience, which is not given within the college but within the hospital system—is that the suitability of the applicant, on the basis of his or her academic performance in the past, is first established. When all of the suitable applicants exceed in number the total number of places which are available, they are then subjected to a computerized random number generator in order to select the 80, in this case.

There were approximately 300 applications for this area and 140 of those were judged to be eligible on the basis of their academicackground and their knowledge of the role which they were likely to pursue. The computerized random sampling was only used after all of those criteria for applicants had been met, and none of those applications was on the floor in the office of the registrar.

Mr. Smith: By way of supplementary, I ask two points of the minister: Is her informant willing, as is my informant, to give a sworn statement in front of a commissioner of oaths, and to take any lie detection test the minister might wish—

Interjections.

Mr. Smith: Just a moment—that she was told the applications were put on the floor and that armfuls were picked up and that among those armfuls only those who qualified were brought in? That is the first part.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is not what the member said.

Mr. Smith: Yes, it is. Secondly, is the minister prepared to defend a system in which a basic minimum for application is set and where, after that, no effort is made to differentiate between those who might be excellent, those who might be very good, and those who might just have passed the basic minimum, but where instead random numbers are chosen by a computer? What has happened to the idea of choosing the best for the available positions rather than those who—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, we continue to attempt to choose the best in nursing courses. This is a limited course in terms of spaces available because of the clinical component, and there are measures taken to ensure that there are qualifications which must be met in order to allow those eligible to be considered for application to the course. That is

done on the basis of information developed from academic programs and from other material which is developed as well.

When all of those eligible have been selected, they are then subjected to random selection in order to ensure that fairness is provided to each of these applicants in an area in which the number of places is limited.

Mr. Wrye: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Is the minister aware that in the other example used, given this great system of criteria of establishing the qualifications of applicants, the only criteria needed at Loyalist College are a grade 12 diploma and 60 per cent in biology? Does the minister believe that sets out criteria which would get us the best nurses in Ontario, as she seems to think?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, what I was answering was the question related to St. Lawrence College. I shall most certainly explore—

Mr. Smith: They are all the same.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, they are not. I shall most certainly explore the question regarding Loyalist College and report to the House.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Labour would like to introduce some guests he has in the Speaker's gallery.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I ask for the indulgence of the House for a moment to introduce some visitors in the gallery: The Honourable Nicholas Martis, Minister for Northern Greece, visiting Toronto today; His Excellency Ambassador Emmanuel Megalokonomos, the new ambassador from Greece; the diplomatic assistant to the Minister for Northern Greece, Mr. Apostolos Papasliotis, who is also a former consul general, and the present consul general, Mr. Vassilios Vassalos, who, to our regret and to his, is leaving Canada shortly.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure all members join in welcoming your most distinguished guests. With all respect, I will add two minutes to the question period.

KU KLUX KLAN

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General. Is the minister aware of the allegations that the Ku Klux Klan is operating, on a farm near Lucan, a training centre in the use of handguns, small firearms and semi-automatic weapons? Does he—

Interjections.

Mr. Breaugh: Before the members opposite sign up to go down to this funny farm, let them just listen to it.

Is the minister aware of these activities carried on by the Klan, and is it true that Ontario Provincial Police officers have no jurisdiction and no legislative powers to control or even monitor this kind of paramilitary training in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, it is certainly not true that the Ontario Provincial Police does not have the jurisdiction to monitor this type of activity. We have heard a number of rumours to this effect in recent months, and the OPP and other police forces have been instructed to watch the situation very closely.

Some time ago I instructed the Ontario Police Commission to give me monthly reports with respect to the activities of the Klan, and we have been seeking to co-ordinate reports from various police forces. To date, we have been unable to detect any hard evidence to support the rumours that have come to the member's attention, which are similar to information that has come to my attention, but I want to assure him that we are watching it very closely.

Mr. Breaugh: Since the ministry is aware of what is going in that particular area near Lucan, is the minister saying in effect that to date the ministry has no hard evidence and does not intend to make any moves on the Klan to stop this training of revolutionaries here in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: First of all, I think we may be putting the cart before the horse a little bit, if I may say so, with the greatest respect.

As to what the appropriate course of action might be, that would depend, of course, upon obtaining hard evidence of this nature. There are certain sections of the Criminal Code that come to mind that might very well be applicable once we have obtained this information. I want to assure the House and the public that there are many sections of the Criminal Code that in our view would be appropriate if it can be established that such activity is being carried on.

Mr. Breaugh: Has the ministry established any connection between the already clearly known revolutionary action by the Klan in Dominica and this kind of training facility that it is operating near Lucan?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: We have no information of any relationship simply because we have been unable to establish that such a training centre does exist.

Mr. Speaker: The time for oral questions has expired.

3:10 p.m.

CANADA HOMES

Mr. Cassidy: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I wish to bring to the House's attention that while the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations has agreed, and I thank him for this, to meet with the people from the Canada Homes development in ten minutes, they and their representatives have not been consulted during the course of negotiations with the developer, as seemed to be the minister's statement earlier in this question period.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Speaking to the point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I have to say that I apologize for taking so long to get this matter settled. I regret that it has not been settled in the company of the aggrieved parties, but it has been settled directly by negotiations between our ministry and the developer.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

TOWN OF ST. MARYS ACT

Mr. Edighoffer moved first reading of Bill Pr12, An Act respecting the Town of St. Marys.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE
(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Ruprecht: Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate you on your appointment as Speaker of this House, and I want to extend the same congratulations to the Deputy Speaker and to the Deputy Chairman of Committees.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the electorate of the riding of Parkdale, who have chosen to make me their member in the assembly for that constituency. I feel very fortunate to represent such a great constituency as the riding of Parkdale, which includes ward one, part of ward two and part of ward three in the city of Toronto. It also includes the federal ridings of Davenport, High Park-Parkdale and Trinity.

You might know, Mr. Speaker, that more than 100 years ago the independent village of Parkdale decided to join the city of Toronto, but not before it had received certain guarantees. One of the guarantees was that drinking water that came from the city should be purified, and another was that Parkdale should have special status in terms of reducing some of its taxes. I might add that Parkdale, being independent, was successful in those two requests. That is why it joined the city of Toronto.

You also know, Mr. Speaker, and I am sure the members do, that Parkdale comes right down to Lake Ontario and has one of the loveliest views of Lake Ontario. There is a multicultural reality built into that area, because we have people from all walks of life and we have people from all corners of the world as part and parcel of our Canadian mosaic now.

I might add that we in Parkdale have achieved something that is very precious in the governments of the world; that is, we have complete harmony and unity among all ethnocultural groups. What we have achieved in that area of town is that no matter who comes to Parkdale, no matter how many people come into our area, they are welcomed to this city through the area of Parkdale.

What is most important is that the area has been neglected over the last 10 years, and the city of Toronto has seen fit to include a new policy and spend more than $500,000 to clean up our area and to revitalize our institutions there. I am specifically speaking of the bachelorettes.

Many of the illegal bachelorettes in Toronto are found in the Parkdale area, and owners have been able to establish themselves there. Now we find that the city has quite clearly made the commitment to clean up the area, and that is why I wanted to represent the people of Parkdale. To my great surprise it is the province, the provincial government on the other side of the House, that has to make a decision. The decision quite clearly involves special money to clear up the biggest problem that our area now faces, and that is the area of group homes, boarding and lodging houses and crisis care facilities.

The city of Toronto has made the commitment to clean up illegal bachelorettes, but now it is incumbent on this government to make a commitment to clean up the policies of group homes, boarding and lodging houses and especially the policy of aftercare services. That, to my mind, is one of the priorities. That, to my mind, is why to a great degree I have been elected over the opposition member who had previously represented this area.

I must add that the previous member, who represented the New Democratic Party, did a credible job in that area. I think what he tried to

do was something pretty noble, which was to try to come to grips with the whole issue of group homes and boarding and lodging houses.

I have made a special commitment to try to bring this to the attention of this House, on a daily basis, if I must, especially to the Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell) and the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea). That program is so urgently needed in Parkdale that without it the area may not ever recover to what it has formerly been.

I want to tell very briefly what has happened in terms of the program that has been instituted by the Ministry of Health, namely, the program of deinstitutionalization, and how that program has affected the Parkdale area, which at one time was a very proud, clean and most liveable part of the city of Toronto. Because of the deinstitutionalization policy of the minister, Parkdale to some degree has been reduced to an area that in some segments has become a ghetto. That includes not only the cleaning up process of illegal bachelorettes, but also to a great degree the group homes, boarding and lodging houses that have not been looked after.

In the 1960s, the government of Ontario decided to depopulate its mental hospitals. Between 1963 and 1968, the number of psychiatric beds in Ontario was cut by almost three quarters, from 16,000 beds to 4,600 beds.

A reaction against the traditional medieval treatment of mentally ill people, combined with the discovery of new drugs that allowed those with chronic mental problems to be stabilized, brought about this dramatic change. The problem with Ontario's rapid deinstitutionalization was that it was not matched by a corresponding growth in community facilities. The province's closure of the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital this past year is the latest example. Only half of the $2.6 million reportedly saved was redirected into new community programs in the area served by the hospital, and only a tiny fraction went for housing of those discharged.

The inadequacy of the present situation in Metro is widely acknowledged. It affects not only Parkdale but also other wards and other areas. Recent articles in the Toronto press graphically describe the life of squalor and desperation faced by many hundreds of former mental patients now living three, four or more to a room in dingy boarding houses.

A recent Metro report confirms the picture of boarding homes with 30 or 40 beds, minimal-quality meals, little or no supervisory care suitable for the needs of residents and haphazard supervision of drugs—this despite the fact that 95 per cent of discharged mentally ill patients are required to follow a medication program—and little in the way of activating programs designed to reintegrate former patients into community life. This is a far cry, in other words, from the dream of deinstitutionalization.

3:20 p.m.

Nor can one blame the boarding house operators, many of whom get little financial reward or outside support. Their rates depend on the residents' incomes and, since the majority of ex-psychiatric patients are either on municipal welfare, provincial family benefits or old age pension, the operator is limited in the rent he can charge. At a monthly rate that often ranges from $190 to $240 for room and board it is hard to make a profit without compromising on accommodation, food or needed supervisory care.

The obvious first step to solving the boarding home problem is setting and enforcing standards. Existing licensing arangements for boarding homes vary throughout Metro, even between departments within a municipality, and they do little to protect residents. For instance, while Etobicoke's zoning does not permit absentee-owned boarding homes, the city of Toronto licenses non-owner-occupied homes. The city is now amending the housing standards bylaw to require owner-occupied homes as well. Where licences are required, however, the emphasis is on a minimal physical standard, that is, cubic feet of space per person, number of persons or fire safety.

No one appears willing to take responsibility for setting standards of care and ensuring through proper inspection they are kept. The Minister of Health has told Metro's municipalities that they already have the power they need to do this through their public health units. The city of Toronto, which is considering a personal care bylaw to enforce standards of care—I was involved with this—has been advised by its own legal department that it may lack the authority. That is where the matter stands. The city does not know whether it has the authority, and the province, through this government, thinks it has provided the authority. Therefore, with no one in charge and with no enforceable standards, how can progress be achieved?

Compounding the problem arising from the poor quality of many boarding homes is the insufficient supply of residential alternatives. Despite the huge decrease in institutional beds, only 277 community-based residential beds have

been developed in Metro. These are group homes that are provincially funded and regulated to varying degrees.

In addition, there are 480 beds in private commercial boarding homes known to serve ex-psychiatric patients, and an estimated equal number of homes not deemed acceptable by a service agency. Because there are not enough residential alternatives, such as housing co-operatives, halfway houses or supervised apartments, boarding homes are overused in Metro. We are told that boarding homes of marginal standards still make the Queen Street Mental Health Centre's recommendation list.

The supply problem is not likely to improve. The prospect of establishing more group homes in Metro is limited. For one thing, the province is not making money available for more group homes for ex-psychiatric patients. For another, Metro's boroughs will not allow group homes for ex-mental patients, except by spot rezoning. Until now, Parkdale, with an abundance of cheap rooming houses and proximity to Queen Street, has served as the receiving ground for the great majority of discharged patients—so much so that about 900 ex-psychiatric patients are housed in the 38 homes there. Parkdale is now viewed as the Queen Street outpatient department.

Even in the city of Toronto, which has been receptive to group homes, voices are now being raised against allowing any more such homes until regulations and standards are in place.

Critics of deinstitutionalization point to a high readmission rate—the revolving-door pattern—showing that 65 or 70 per cent of those admitted to hospitals for psychiatric treatment are repeaters, although this group represents a small percentage of the total number treated.

Defenders answer that many forms of mental illness are cyclical and require frequent returns to the hospital. They insist the situation is worsened by both ineffective monitoring and the lack of a unified network of support services to facilitate the move from the hospital to the community.

The larger issue is that of responsibility. Ex-psychiatric patients have a whole range of needs: health, housing, vocational, social and recreational. At the present time, there is a patchwork of facilities offering a variety of services, with no agency responsible for seeing they are provided on a co-ordinated basis. Unless the Ontario government develops a policy on community mental health services, including housing, deinstitutionalization will continue to mean little more than the emptying of hospital beds with minimal patient rehabilitation.

The minister asked me last week if there would be some positive steps, some positive programs that would be propagated by this side of the House. I am happy that we on this side are quite ready to show the minister how he can much more effectively operate by providing these positive policy steps:

First, he could define which government ministry has responsibility for aftercare services so that the patchwork that currently exists with not nearly sufficient financing could end.

Second, he could implement the recommendations of the Metro council report on boarding homes and lodging houses by mandating local government to license in respect of boarding homes and to fund enrichment programs.

Third, he could approve Metro council's inclusion of its group home policy in the official plan so that area municipalities cannot block the establishment of group homes in residential areas. I hope the Minister of Housing (Mr. Bennett), who has recently signed such a policy, will be sufficiently tough to maintain the official position of Metro council.

Fourth, he could instruct the Ontario Housing Corporation to provide apartments for psychiatric patients.

Fifth, he could fund group home programs for psychiatric patients in the boroughs that permit such housing.

Finally, in terms of group homes, along with our party and our leader, who addressed himself to that policy some months ago, I would call for a public inquiry into the state of mental health care in Ontario. That is very necessary.

What is of interest to note in the mental health field today is that Metro council wants certain things from the Ministry of Health and from the government. It now wants the establishment of outreach services for boarding homes in the community, which especially serve wards two and seven in the city of Toronto and ward five in the borough of Etobicoke, in the 1981 fical year.

The provincial response to the Metro request is simple. It simply says there may be funding available depending on the type of service to be provided and the need for the service being demonstrated. That is the response. I think we in Parkdale have more than ample proof. The member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko) will know that, because he has to drive through

our area. He too will have ample proof that we need outpatient care, outpatient programs and housing facilities for ex-psychiatric patients.

3:30 p.m.

The response continues, and it says quite clearly that patients discharged from psychiatric hospitals "may require assistance in financial management, managing personal care, finding accommodation, obtaining income maintenance and reaching counselling programs." There is something very surprising in the provincial response. It says: "Only a minority of the patients discharged from psychiatric facilities require these types of assistance." I find this very strange.

In 1979, the Queen Street Mental Health Centre reported a 64 per cent rate of return to institutional care of discharged patients. Here the provincial response to the request by Metropolitan Toronto says that only a minority of patients discharged from psychiatric facilities require these types of assistance. It is clear to see this is not a minority, that 60 per cent represents a substantial majority. Now, in 1980, we know it is no longer a 64 per cent rate of recidivism—in other words, a return of patients to the hospital and psychiatric institutions— but has been established today at between 65 and 70 per cent.

It is very clear to see what is essential in the Parkdale area, especially when one looks at the most recent development, a development that indicates that Parkdale in terms of the group home boarding and lodging house phenomena is indeed in a state of crisis.

Only a few weeks ago we had the editor of a local monthly newspaper for ex-patients indicate quite clearly that she wants 200 to 300 ex-psychiatric patients to stop taking antipsychotic and antischizophrenic medication. Why wait until a crisis of this proportion is permitted to happen and, if I may ask, what does this crisis indicate to us? What is this strike supposed to achieve?

The reason is simple. The patients in the Parkdale area feel very isolated and left alone without any help to be able to reintegrate into normal society. The proposed strike is a protest against the province's policy of releasing mental patients into the community where there are inadequate support services, armed only with prescriptions for a variety of powerful drugs. That is the basic reason why there is a strike in the Parkdale area.

I hope the Minister of Health will understand and try to come up with some very specific policies. If he cannot come up with these policies through his own ministry, then let him come to this area of the House and ask the Liberal Party what these policies and guidelines ought to be, because we are ready to show him precisely where these people can be helped so that a normalized lifestyle can be maintained.

I have a letter from the Ministry of Health, signed by a Mr. Klamer of the nursing home inspection service, who says in December 1980 that he inspected some of these homes, especially a nursing home Dr. Rajovic's health centre on Dowling Avenue, where he made some interesting findings. I listened here just last week while one of the honourable ministers of the government indicated there is no need to have inspections of nursing homes. Those inspections, he claimed, are not really necessary; one has only to look the nursing homes over to see if they are clean, in which case one can assume it is acceptable for a loved one to be put into its care.

What Mr. Klamer from the nursing home inspection service finds in many nursing homes in the Parkdale area is a totally different picture. He finds many problems. For instance, in terms of nutritional care, he finds that a cook employed in the facility I mentioned claims she is terminating her employment owing to lack of food supplies. He reports it is the opinion of the inspectors that the nutritional care standards are not adequate for the wellbeing of the residents. We need a co-ordinated policy which will address these problems that have become obvious in the Parkdale area.

Let me now address myself to the economic policy of this province, although I must confess I have not yet discovered it. But in so far as one does exist, it is clear it is one of dependence upon our powerful neighbours to the south. This means we are linked to another economy in which the policies of a certain group of powerful multinational corporations determine Ontario's future growth in accordance with their own economic policies. I am saying quite clearly we in Ontario are subject to the growth priorities of other countries.

This means the growth pattern of Ontario's economy is dependent specifically on the US economy and on US political priorities. On a lower level, this means we are dependent on the growth priorities of American corporations vis-a-vis their subsidiaries.

Our policy in this province should address its economic strategy to three areas: balance of payment policies, antitrust laws and freedom of

export policies. But there is nothing in the minor policy initiatives taken in the throne speech to indicate this has been done. This government has not seriously examined these areas. In fact, I would submit that there is no clear strategy in terms of our economic development and the leader of the Liberal Party has already made that abundantly clear in his own response.

3:40 p.m.

I am deeply concerned that those now in control of the government have failed to make clear where they are heading and where they propose to lead this province. I think the time to face and weigh these facts is now. I think a new period is beginning and we can very clearly see that by the high interest rates, by the economic chaos in this province and by the unemployment. A new period is beginning and it must summon new men, not old men. These are new problems, they demand new ideas, they demand new action and I for one cannot pretend to believe that the Progressive Conservative Party has fully met its duty in the throne speech.

The times in which we live are not conventional and the scene we must view is not simply one of partisan politics. What is at stake here is the future of Ontario and, as the leading province of this country, what is done here probably affects the future of Canada as well.

In this spirit, I am compelled to say two things very bluntly. First, I find it unreasonable that there is no clear strategy in our economy, only responses of tactics to win favour with the electorate.

Second, I find it reasonable and urgently necessary that the spokesmen of the PC party declare now, not at some later date, precisely what they believe and what they propose in order to meet the great matters before the province. We cannot march to meet the future with a banner aloft whose only emblem is a question mark. The question mark is the throne speech. The path of great leadership does not lie along the top of a fence; it climbs heights, it speaks truths. The people want one thing above all others: leadership of clear prpose and that candidly proclaimed.

What we find lacking in the throne speech is that the PC party has not recognized Ontario's industrial decline and the need for a definite industrial strategy. We also find that there is nothing in this throne speech which points a way to help small businesses, farmers and home owners to deal with the tremendously high interest rate structures that exist at present.

I am personally very disappointed there is nothing in the throne speech that indicates an intention to act upon the crisis of escalating housing costs which are making the dream of owning a home an impossibility for average Ontarians.

In North America, we have the technology to place a man on the moon, yet we find ourselves unable or unwilling, apparently, as the government has indicated, to come to grips with some of the social problems that are so necessary in order to make Ontario again number one in terms of economic progress, educational policy and social development.

What we need to develop in this province is a greater sense of community. We can look at the proclamations of Jean Jacques Rousseau, who was one of the main builders of this community spirit. Unless we do that—I think we have achieved it to a certain degree in Parkdale—and build a sense of community, we are going to be prey to forces that will create chaos in this province.

I know I am joined by my colleagues on this side of the House in wanting to see policies instituted and problems addressed in the throne speech which will make Ontario number one in all fields of endeavour.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, in entering this debate, I want first to express my congratulations and best wishes to yourself and to the member for Peterborough in assuming the responsibilities of Deputy Speaker and Speaker of this House.

The New Democratic Party has expressed some concern with regard to the process in existence here for choosing a Speaker, the chief officer of the whole Legislature. Those concerns persist. I have set out my reasons for that concern in other places and my hope would be that some time between now and the next time we have to choose a Speaker—presumably in four years or so—we might clarify those procedures, because I think it would be in the interests of all of us, and particularly of this institution, that such should be done.

However, the point I want to make is that our doubts and concerns expressed with regard to that proces are not to be taken as criticism of you, Mr. Speaker, in your person and in the responsibilities you have assumed. I repeat, we wish you well because—and it is a platitude almost—a successful operation by the chief officer of the Legislature is perhaps the most important contributing factor to an effective operation of the House as a whole. It has much to do with regard to the tone and the effectiveness of our operation.

I also want to say a word of welcome to all the newcomers in the House. Those serried ranks up there have now been depleted to just four. They must have known I was going to speak, so they all disappeared. However, again, I welcome them. As one who has been around here for some time—some people say on borrowed time and I will explain exactly what I mean by that in a moment—I would suggest they have undertaken one of the noblest and most rewarding callings that anybody in a democratic society can undertake, that is, seeking elective office, being elected and serving their fellow men and women.

I say that in the context that if a person is not sure whether he really wanted to be an elected representative he may discover he is dying a thousand deaths a week and he is in the wrong game altogether. He may want to get out sooner rather than later because it is the kind of operation for which one is suited temperamentally or one will find it very difficult.

The Camp commission on the Legislature, when it completed its investigation and review of the House back in the mid-1970s, discovered the average tenure in the House was about nine and a half years. I understand that with all the newcomers, if one were to do that calculation today, the average tenure might be down to about seven years or even less.

When one has been around here for seven, eight or nine years, or beyond that, one is beginning to live on borrowed time. Perhaps the members should bear that in mind, because it is just possible the quality of fate will in future be meted out somewhat more equally to that side of the House than has been the case in the past. They will find that borrowed time is imposed upon them.

3:50 p.m.

I want to devote the major portion of my remarks this afternoon to the constitution and federal-provincial relations. It is not a matter that most people are really interested in, quite frankly, but since it has received so much press and has created such a crisis in our federal politics and in our provincial politics, particularly in some parts of the country, people, even though they do not have an intrinsic interest, have had an interest imposed upon them, so to speak.

There is also a feeling that since there is some prospect we have reached the conclusion of the current chapter in this anguished effort to get a new constitution in Canada, we should welcome it and forget it and get on to all the other important things that tend to be neglected. However, in the process of going through this current chapter, for those of us who live in Ontario, there is a matter of very major concern and it is that upon which I want to focus.

In the throne speech, there was one paragraph —which I do not suppose anybody in the House is going to have any particular objection to—dealing with this matter of the constitution. It read as follows: "While my government regrets the lack of accord between several of our sister provinces and the central government, we continue to hold a positive perspective on the outcome. For its part, this province will continue to strive for patriation of the Canadian constitution with a fair amending formula and with an entrenched charter of rights." I suppose that is really the nub of it: "This province will continue to strive for patriation of the Canadian constitution with a fair amending formula and with an entrenched charter of rights"—something that is supported by all parties within the House. "This has been our position since the federal-provincial conference on the constitution in February 1969," said the throne speech.

As is well known, Ontario's historic role in Confederation, in federal-provincial relations, has been that of the compromiser, the peacemaker, the facilitator, sometimes referred to as the linchpin of Confederation. Ontario has often been the unofficial spokesman and leader of English-speaking Canada, because other provinces were willing, at least in the past, to let Ontario be the spokesman and the leader. In that capacity, it has very often played a key role in bridging the gap between English and French Canada. When impasses emerged or developed between the central government and the provinces, Ontario has often been the arbitrator and the conciliator in trying to bridge the gap.

However, the matter of concern that I referred to a moment ago is that during the 1970s Ontario has foresaken that historic role. Frequently, when there is a federal-provincial conference, it appears that Ontario is the odd man out. When it makes a suggestion, instead of being accepted as the unofficial leader, it is more likely that most of the other provinces are going to be lining up in opposition to what Ontario has suggested. There is little or no effort on the part of Ontario, particularly in the current chapter of negotiations, to seek an acceptable middle ground between the federal government and the dissenting provinces. In short, Ontario has moved into a very different position.

It is a radical change. It is a change that might

be stated another way, that historically Ontario was the defender of provincial rights. From Mowat through Hepburn to George Drew, the posture of Ontario was that of defender of provincial rights against the encroachment of federal power. There has been a gradual shift from that. From the days of Leslie Frost through the days of John Robarts, while retaining something of a championing of provincial rights, while retaining a position that was somewhat at arm's length from the federal government, there was at least a willingness to become more closely identified with interests that the federal government normally champions.

In other words, Ontario as a major benefactor of Confederation has a growing tendency to defend the status quo in protecting those interests from which it has been the major benefactor. This process of identification and joint stands with the federal government has now reached an advanced point where Ontario—in the vernacular—is in bed with Trudeau. Davis is in bed with Trudeau almost submissively, almost indecently so.

One hears that said perhaps more vigorously by the Conservative rank and file than perhaps by anybody else. In fact, Davis is not only in bed with Trudeau; the perception is that he has pulled the covers up over his head and is not even looking out into the world and the battle that is ongoing.

Interjection.

Mr. MacDonald: I said it was potentially and perceptibly indecent, so let the words speak for themselves.

There are a number of new realities that have created this different role for the province. It might be useful to remind ourselves of what these new realities are. First has been the growing nationalist movement in Quebec—starting with Duplessis, carrying through with Lesage and reaching its climax with the separatist Parti Quebecois. That has made it extremely difficult for Ontario to maintain its traditional partnership with Quebec, a role which is the product of both history and geography and a recognition of common interests that stems from pre-Confederation days. But if the stated objective of the government of Quebec is to separate from Canada, an objective that may be muted for the time being—and one welcomes that—then it is difficult for Ontario to maintain that historic relationship. It is one of the new realities.

The second and even more compelling new reality is the kind of economic development that has taken place in this country. It is upsetting the traditional regional balances, or perhaps more accurately, the traditional regional imbalances. Economic development in the west—and to a lesser extent in the east, although there is a promise for it and one lives with these promises as vigorously as one lives with the reality down in the Maritime provinces—has altered forever the traditional dominance of Canada's economy which has characterized Ontario's position down through the last 100 years or so. Have-not provinces of yesterday have become the have provinces of today. Indeed, some of the have-not provinces of today are hoping to become the have provinces of tomorrow. As one listens to Mr. Peckford one would think tomorrow is just around the corner.

Gone or fast going is the historic empire of the St. Lawrence, where economic destinies of the whole nation were decided in Montreal and Toronto, where east and west were regarded as a resource base and market to be exploited by central Canada and federal governments pursued policies which served what was regarded as the imperial centre of Canada. Conferation is increasingly a partnership of equals rather than a partnership of one or two dominant provinces and the rest in relatively subservient roles. One has to acknowledge that new reality. For Ontario, it is going to be difficult to adapt to it. When one has held a dominant position for 100 years it is difficult to accommodate to a partnership of equals.

On one hand this is a development which is good. Surely nobody would regret the have-not provinces of yesterday developing a resource base so that they can stand on their own feet—that they no longer need to go as suppliants for the necessary financial resources to be able to provide even the minimum standards for their people. It is a development to be welcomed. On the other hand, as I have noted, it creates great difficulties for a province like Ontario whose paramountcy in Confederation has now been removed. This, Mr. Speaker, I think is the question: How do we accommodate ourselves to these new realities?

4 p.m.

I want to attempt to answer that question, and to do so by speaking specifically to the basic concern of today, the constitutional impasse, a situation in which only two provinces are lined up with the federal government and the other eight provinces are lined up in quite vigorous opposition.

Some are firmly convinced that the current

impasse between the federal government and the eight dissenting provinces is, in part at least, the product of Ontario forsaking its traditional role in Confederation. Lining up so solidly, so unquestioningly, with the federal government is perceived to be the protection of the status quo, not a strengthening of central power.

Ontario has played no part in forestalling the division of the nation into hostile camps. It has played little or no part in seeking that common ground that must exist if this nation is going to continue. Hopefully, it is not too late for Ontario, even now, to play some role of leadership and conciliation, to seek some acceptable middle ground.

I acknowledge that the nature of any future scenario is going to be laid down by the Supreme Court in its decision some four to six weeks from today. Since God has finally been included in our constitution, my hope, even my prayer, would be that He would grant to the Supreme Court divine wisdom in pointing our way out of this impasse, and not plunge us back to square one, where we will be even more deeply in trouble than we have been for the past year or so.

Should the judgement favour the federal government package, or at least favour its substance even though striking down some of its components, I would like to believe that the door would be open and that it would still be possible to achieve some measure of reconciliation between the federal government and the two supporting provinces and those eight dissenting provinces.

Surely it is a profoundly unhappy situation that on a matter as fundamental and one that should be unifying the nation as the development of the new constitution, we should have this kind of basic division. The prospect of trying to move into a new consttutional chapter with such massive opposition is something that I would like to believe even Pierre Elliott Trudeau—or perhaps particularly Pierre Elliott Trudeau, as a constitutional lawyer—would hope could be improved if some measure of consensus could be achieved.

I have reason to believe, and I measure my words carefully, that among the eight dissenting provinces there are some—not all—that would be open to a tradeoff in which the charter of rights would be accepted if a more acceptable amending formula were conceived.

This, of course, assumes that this very controversial and mixed-in issue of energy can be dealt with as another separate issue and not mixed in with the constitution. There are some signs that may happen.

I was interested in the article that Ron Atkey wrote for the Globe and Mail on March 18. He noted that the Premier (Mr. Davis) stated at the first ministers' conference last September that Ontario could live with some reasonable version of the Vancouver consensus. Atkey pleaded with the Premier to exercise his influence and his leverage with Ottawa on this constitutional issue because it must be significant, and without the Premier's support the central government position would have been unacceptable and in even deeper trouble from the word go.

He pleaded for the Premier to use his influence, his leverage with Ottawa, to secure some move towards an acceptance of this tradeoff. I would add my pleadings: The Vancouver consensus, which calls for two thirds of the provinces, representing 50 per cent of the population, and with this catch, this add-on—which is the controversial one, of course—the right of the province to opt out of a proposed change if it affects its legislative jurisdiction or resources.

If the opting-out right were narrowly enough defined, it might be able to be little different from the kind of diversity of arrangements that currently exist in our federal-provincial affairs. In short, it can be argued—and I suggest it is an argument that has a fair measure of validity and should be entertained by this government—that there is a possibility of a greater consensus. If the federal government accepted such a version of the Vancouver formula, if it made it possible for more provinces to accept the charter of rights, we would have a much more acceptable package to send over to Britain for Westminster's consideration.

I am blithely proceeding here to create my own personal scenario as to how these constitutional changes might be achieved. I acknowledge and emphasize that my scenario is different from that accepted by the House of Commons. The official scenario envisages that the package, if it is accepted totally or substantially by the Supreme Court of Canada and comes back to the House of Commons, will be debated for another short period, two days I believe, and will be adopted without further amendments.

But we do not need to remind ourselves that sovereign parliaments can do anything by unanimous consent. Unanimous consent got the House of Commons out of a hopeless bind after months of debate, and I would like to believe that unanimous consent would still be possible

for improvements to the package that reflected a reasonable consensus—not necessarily unanimity, because I firmly believe we have to get away from the tyranny of unanimity, which some people think has been the operative way in our constitutional arrangements.

There need not necessarily be unanimity among the provinces, although that may well be possible, and my fervent hope would be that Ontario would expend every effort to achieve it. In so doing, it might go far to restoring something of the historic role that Ontario has played in Confederation.

Having said that, I want to move on to two or three specifics within the general context that I spelled out. Let me say, as an aside and a digression, that in the course of speaking with many people in politics and the academic world, political scientists and others who make it their almost full-time preoccupation these days to consider the difficulties in the reform of our constitution, I was most distressed to discover almost a bottom line among many of them when they were asked what Ontario should be doing now that would be a meaningful contribution to resolving this impasse.

I was struck by the remarkable paucity of suggestions as to what Ontario might be able to do. Some argued, and this was the bottom line, that Ontario's credibility, Ontario's image among the other provinces, had slipped to a point where it might well have to spend the next five years or so rebuilding its image and rebuilding its credibility before it could have the capacity for leadership that had been traditional in the first 100 years or so of Confederation. I do not accept that. It is a counsel of despair, in my view. I do not accept it for reasons I have already indicated as to how I think Ontario might move in to achieve that greater measure of middle ground. I do not accept it as I take a

The first one is in the general area of federal-provincial relations. Undoubtedly, because of the fact that Ontario has slipped from that paramount, dominant role in Confederation and in the Canadian economy, we are going to have to manifest a greater sensitivy towards the interest, the concerns and the aspirations of others than has been the case in the past.

4:10 p.m.

If I may move away from the economic base of Confederation, we have done that in the past with regard to French-Canadian aspirations. One of the remarkable characteristics of the contribution of John Robarts is that, for reasons that are worthy of an intense, almost psychiatric study, he had an understanding and appreciation of the aspirations of French Canada and was willing to voice them. Since that voice came from Ontario, the historic partner in Confederation, there was the possibility of much more progress than hitherto had been the case.

There has to be a greater understanding of western Canada. One of the things I found absolutely baffling amd staggering was the proposal that emerged from the government here in Ontario, voiced by the Premier at a public meeting at the Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, the Vancouver Board of Trade or something, in which he called for a royal commission to find out why western Canada is alienated.

The hilarious and derisive laughter has not quite subsided in western Canada. If Ontario, including the Premier, does not know at this point why western Canada is alienated, we are a great distance away from the meeting of minds which may resolve some of the problems. I hesitate even to put on the record some of the searing editorials that emerged in western papers with regard to Ontario and the Premier of Ontario when that proposal was made. It fell like a lead balloon and has not been heard of since, except as a source of laughter.

Perhaps it is a manifestation of our unwillingness or our incapacity, right at the government level, to understand why western Canada feels the way it feels. We have to educate ourselves a little bit. We have to do something to develop sensitivity, without necessarily forgoing a fight to protect Ontario's interests, because in future it may well be that Ontario, like many other provinces, has to fight in good part to protect its own interests in federal-provincial relations.

I do not think that in doing that there is need to forgo that role of leadership, but it can fulfil that role of leadership only if it has some understanding and sensitivity towards the aspirations of western Canada in particular and, to somewhat the same extent, of eastern Canada.

I had the benefit a week ago this past weekend of speaking to many of our colleagues from the Atlantic provinces, particularly my old and good friend Lloyd Shaw, who is one of the leading industrialists with roots in all three of the Maritime provinces as well as in Newfoundland.

He stressed that there is a general acknowledgement and acceptance of the fact that the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion program, in its efforts to stimulate the economy by an input here and an input

there, simply has not worked. They have to sit down and plan economic development. With the coming into play of new resources, they have more capacity to do that kind of planning. As the sheet anchor of the Canadian industrial and manufacturing world, Ontario can, with a sensitivity towards that part of the country as well as towards western Canada, play a more effective role in federal-provincial relations generally.

Let me move to a second point with which I want to deal, a point obviously of great touchiness in Ontario. I want to suggest quietly, as unprovocatively as possible, that Ontario should move to a voluntary acceptance, from within the province rather than from any attempt to impose from without, of section 133 of the British North America Act. Let me quote Ron Atkey's comments in this connection from the article he wrote for the Globe and Mail. I mentioned it earlier.

He said: "But for French-speaking Quebeckers looking for a new deal they were promised before the no vote in last year's Quebec referendum, some positive signal is needed from the rest of Canada in addition to the Trudeau package, which is receiving lukewarm support in that province as Monday's election results seem to indicate. Such a signal from Mr. Davis need not involve making Ontario officially bilingual. It might simply commit Ontario within a reasonable time of, say, three years to the same constitutional footing as Quebec and Manitoba with respect to linguistic minorities.

"Ontario is already there respecting the use of English and French in the Legislature. It is almost there regarding the use of English and French in courts. The cost of translating statutes, records and journals of the Legislature would not be unmanageable if spread over a period of years."

I think Mr. Atkey, to put it frankly, is being a bit cute by saying the Premier could do all these things without making Ontario officially bilingual. True, he could, and the important thing is they are doing these things. Linguistic equality exists in this Legislature. Linguistic equality is going to be achieved in the courts, and the chief law officer of the crown has stressed that they are moving towards that as quickly as circumstances will permit.

The proposition that we cannot do what Quebec has always done, what little New Brunswick and little Manitoba are doing in terms of a translation of the statutes and other documents and things of that nature, is nonsense. To argue that it would be too costly is nonsense. If it is not too costly to achieve that basic unity in Manitoba, New Brunswick and through them for the whole nation, it is not too costly for Ontario, the richest province in this country.

I find it distressing, if not humiliating, to have the Prime Minister of this country and the federal leader of the Progressive Conservative Party pleading with the leader of our government to do the right thing. I acknowledge that there is a potential backlash in this province about moving in this direction. I am always puzzled as to how that backlash is kept quiet when the government proceeds to do all the things except to establish the symbol of official equality of language.

But Robarts faced exactly that same backlash when he accepted the bilingualism and biculturalism report back in 1966 which called for a recognition of the validity of bilingualism in this country. Indeed, I can remember people on the front benches who were not in the cabinet audibly expressing opposition to John Robarts when he said he was going to accept the report and set up a task force to proceed towards implementation.

It is difficult to argue against the Quebec government's restriction on anglophones' linguistic rights and the Quebec government's retreat to unilingualism when Ontario refuses to acknowledge comparable rights to the francophone population, the largest single bloc of francophones outside of Quebec. In the last Quebec election not only was the Parti Québecois government re-elected but also there was a 50 per cent increase in support of the PQ from the anglophone community.

The percentages I have read are that from 13 per cent to just over 20 per cent of the anglophone community supported the Lésveque government. It was significant and I think not to be ignored and forgotten that on election night Lévesque paid tribute to the fact that the anglophone and the ethnic communities had supported the PQ government to a greater extent than they had in the past. It is predicted that will be reflected in future shifts in the cabinet.

4:20 p.m.

Some people have said from the outset that the reason for the Parti Québecois' retreat into uniligualism and establishment of French as the predominant language is the long battle to establish the equality of French in Quebec and the belief they could do it only if they establish unilingualism, at least for a time, a fact that

arose from the use of English in the dominant economic life of the province, most of which, until very recent years, tended to be in the anglophone community.

Some say—and this is only a prediction; they may be wrong—that once the French language has been established in Quebec there will be a willingness to restore some of the linguistic anglophone rights that have been restricted to some degree in the last two or three or four years. In short, we will get that historic balance of rights that has characterized Quebec from Confederation. Would it not be ironic if that kind of thing were to happen in Quebec and here in Ontario we were to continue to insist that we could not officially accept the equality of the French language along with the English language?

I suggest that what is required here is an act of statesmanship and healing at this time. When Richard Hatfield in New Brunswick says, "How can I argue for equality of linguistic rights in Quebec when Ontario, with the largest group of francophones, is not willing to do the same?" he has a valid point. It requires an act of statesmanship. Sometimes those acts of statesmanship, in terms of meeting the needs of the whole nation, have to be taken, even if one recognizes there will not be unanimous support within the province itself. That would not be the first time it happened. I repeat, it was the kind of thing that happened back in John Robarts's day on a number of scores.

I suggest that a voluntary acceptance of section 133 from within the province, not only having the support of opposition parties in this House, is a prerequisite to building a historic relationship with the sister province of Quebec.

I move down to a third area, and I do it tentatively and not in any great depth, because clearly it is a very fluid situation. That is the whole energy policy. It has been all mixed up in the constitution, inevitably so. There are some prospects that now it is going to be separated out; indeed, after the Supreme Court has made a decision and the constitution comes back to the House, presumably there will be a passage of the package—we hope with a measure of reform reflected in greater consensus—over to the House of Commons so it leaves the energy issue separate to be settled.

I am told that people from our Ministry of Energy were in Ottawa the week after the election discussing this impasse, this crisis in the whole energy pricing field in Canada today. The scuttlebutt—which may be wrong or may be right, or which may be sufficiently right to be valid to make the point—is that the word from Ontario was, "Well, if you move to some measure of accommodation with Alberta, we will grumble, but we won't scream." There is certainly a growing recognition that some sort of compromise has to be worked out.

I have always found it a little puzzling as to why they have not worked towards that compromise when we have both the Premier of Ontario and Premier Laugheed of Alberta publicly on record as saying that 75 per cent of world price would be an acceptable kind of goal or solution. Seventy-five per cent of world price would be up to about $32 or $33 a barrel and would go far to conciliate the bruised feelings and sensitivities of western Canada when the price is only $17 or $18 a barrel now.

The New Democratic Party would reiterate, if that kind of scenario were going to be played, that there is the common ground set out by the two Premiers, that along with such moves there must be the necessary policies to cushion the implementation of such policies for those who are going to be most vulnerable to that kind of a massive increase in energy prices.

I also recognize the thorny issue of the time frame in which such policies would be implemented. There is not much point in me painting a scenario here about the even thornier problem of how they are going to share the revenues, but it is an area with which we have to come to grips. I suggest it is an area where, once again, Ontario cannot hide under the bedclothes, so to speak, when it is in bed with Trudeau.

Ontario has to voice its views, and one hopes it can do it with a bit more fearlessness now that the election is over and the government has a majority. Now it can resume something of a role instead of being a cipher in this growing impasse that has emerged between the central government and western Canada, because it is obvious that the whole nation is suffering and the goal of energy self-sufficiency will be fading away into the 1990s, if not into the next century, if we do not break this impasse some time soon.

I will wrap up my comments here by reiterating that I refuse to accept that counsel of despair I found from so many of the people I was speaking to, that Ontario's image and credibility in its relationships with other provinces has dwindled to a point that it has to spend five or 10 years rebuilding that image and that credibility. It may well be true that it has to work on that, but it has to express the sensitivity I discussed

earlier with regard to the reasons for western Canadian alienation and the aspirations of the Atlantic provinces.

There are things that Ontario can do now. Some of them were pointed to by Ron Atkey. I have emphasized some of them; I have added to them. There are specifics that Ontario can do now in terms of acts of statesmanship and nation building that are not going to violate the responsibility of any government, namely, to protect the interests and the rights of the province for which it speaks.

Let me briefly turn to one other topic, and I am not going to go into it in great depth. I will try to do this as unprovocatively as possible too. Since the Premier is not here, maybe it is not possible to provoke. Dare I suggest that those back-benchers cannot be provoked? One of them has already intervened to say, "Don't be too sure."

I want to say a word about the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Henderson). Agriculture is one of my major concerns in this House and has been for some 25 years or so. I think we have a situation today that is totallly unprecedented in our history. From my reading of the history books and from my recollection of the last 25 or 30 years, I do not know of any period in which there has been such an open repudiation and criticism and call for the resignation of the Minister of Agriculture and Food as is the case today.

The Premier can dig in his heels. Someone suggested that precisely because there is a call for his resignation we will have to live with him for even longer, because they will have to save face.

I think it is well for us to note just how widespread and how deep-seated this lack of credibility has grown to in the case of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. It is not something that happened overnight. It emerged from day one, when he was appointed to the ministry, because there was no wild enthusiasm or any great belief out there in farm circles—may I say to the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve), in farm circles as elsewhere—that he was the man who could really do the job.

4:30 p.m.

Members will recall last year that unprecedented move when the board of directors of the largest farm organization in this province, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, called for the minister's resignation if he did not do something substantial to move in the direction of coping with the problem of the foreign takeover of prime agricultural land in Ontario.

But what he did was not substantial. What he did was to belatedly proclaim an act that had been passed four or five months earlier. What he did under criticism in this House was to finally appoint a co-ordinator and inspectors to supervise this whole new registration process so we could find out just how great this problem is. Indeed, until then, the government and the minister had been arguing that there really was no problem; it was being exaggerated.

That was the first open call by the major agricultural organization in this province for the minister's resignation. When the minister's response came to the current crisis—which is constantly being referred to in this House and on every radio farm broadcast program one can hear daily, weekly, monthly, rolling in, the crisis of interest rates and related issues—there was an insensitivity, a sloughing off.

There was a meeting in Chesley which represented 500 farmers from the area of Grey and Bruce and a meeting held in the Wellington -Dufferin-Peel area some time later. Let me read the comment that was made by the chairman of the Wellington Federation of Agriculture, Mr. Brian Crawley: "He has failed us ever since he got in there. He has done nothing but bluster his way out of his responsibilities. He is an embarrassment. It reflects on the integrity of farmers to have a man of his calibre there."

That is in western Ontario. Let us go to the eastern part of the province. John McNinch, president of the Frontenac Federation of Agriculture, says the Wellington federation is justified in demanding the minister's resignation. "I do not think Henderson has done a good job," McNinch says. "We expect an agricultural minister to look after farmers and have some clout with the cabinet. He does not seem to have it or to have an interest in it. He does not seem to be interested in getting agriculture in Ontario going."

These are not irresponsible people in the media or elsewhere. These are farmers who are living with the consequences. Let me sketch the extent to which this goes on and on. Gordon Wainman of the London Free Press on April 15 had an article, following the board of governors' meeting, in which he spoke to the county federation presidents. Not one of the nine officials of area county federations polled on Tuesday praised the minister's performance. Now, that is pretty massive unanimity—not one.

What were their comments? Laverne Wray, a federation director on the minister's Lambton home ground, defended him on Tuesday over interest rates and blamed some farm bankruptcies on farmers themselves. "What do they expect Henderson to do, hold their hands all the time?" he asked. "I can think of several local people who have gone under; if they were any representation of those others going bankrupt, they should not have lasted as long as they did." The best one can get for the minister was that Wray did not criticize the minister's general performance—but neither did he offer a commendation from the minister's home territory.

Other spokesmen were open in their criticism. Listen to this: "Farmers in general are pretty disgusted with Henderson's performance. He is a joke." That comes from Brian Ireland, the Bruce federation director. "We are still on record as calling for his resignation over foreign ownership of land. The feeling here is that the Ontario government just doesn't give a damn or care about agriculture." That is from Gerry Fortune, Huron federation president.

"There is no doubt in my mind and this county's that Henderson has proved inadequate. He does not seem to display the knowledge necessary for the agricultural portfolio" says Eric Hardy, federation president.

Dissatisfaction with Lorne Henderson is overwhelming. "You would have to look a long time to find a Middlesex farmer who would say he could not find a much better Minister of Agriculture," is the opinion of Dave Murray, Middlesex federation director. "The man just passes the buck on to the federal government, or even to the farmer himself. He does not listen to the farmer," says Albert Vanderploeg, Elgin Federation director. "I sense a lot of people feel Henderson just is not in touch with what is going on," says Howard Cornwall, Oxford federation board. "Lorne can say he owns a farm, but he doesn't hold a candle to former minister Bill Stewart so far as his agressiveness for farmers is concerned," in the view of Clayton Bender, Perth federation director. And so it goes on, all across the province.

By way of a concluding point, the focus is on the minister because of his inadequacies which were obvious from the day he was appointed. They are only now being articulated by people who normally will live with this government, because that is the sort of cosy relationship they have always had.

But the problem is not just with the minister; the problem is with the government. What I find most objectionable is for the Premier to stand up as he did the other day, when he was being queried about the interest rate problem and the responsbility of the province to do something about it, and say that we cannot get at this piecemeal because the problem is Ottawa. He said the solution rests in Ottawa and that we cannot plug the dike here or there or ease the pain and suffering somewhere else.

There is a measure of validity in that argument, but that is not the argument the government was making one year ago. The interest rates were just as high, but an election was coming; so the government was willing to do something. They made $25 million available. However, for reasons that mystify me still, only $5 million of the $25 million was picked up.

If the government was being serious and not crassly cynical in making the $25 million available in advance of an election, surely, having appropriated the money, they would leave it available so that the farmers who needed it could be able to get it. But they cut off the program because this government, like the government in Ottawa, is not basically sympathetic to agriculture. Ministers of Agriculture and Food are odd men out in the cabinet. Gene Whelan, the federal minister, periodically has to take his fight with the rest of the cabinet out to the public as a whole.

Liberal and Tory governments are business-dominated governments. Agriculture is just one other sector of the economy to be exploited by business interests. Liberals and Tories normally are not willing to do what is necessary to protect agriculture.

Mr. Williams: That is not so.

Mr. MacDonald: It is not only so, but the record is very clear. It is not something the member for Oriole would do anything about anyway. He should not display his ignorance.

As pointed out by one of the federation's spokesmen in that series of criticisms I quoted, the problem is that the minister has neither the willingness, credibility nor weight—imagine that minister not having the weight—to be able to influence the cabinet. So, afterwards, the cabinet washes out a pre-election program, which they were willing to concede in order to get votes, before the money was spent. That is classic proof of this government's lack of sympathy and willingness to do something to solve the problem; even if one were to agree that the problem starts in Ottawa and ultimately has to be solved in Ottawa.

But the Minister of Agriculture and Food has

lost his credibility. I say this so that the Premier may read it or have somebody read it on his behalf: He can dig in his heels, he can save face and he can defend the indefensible by defending Lorne Henderson as the Minister of Agriculture and Food, but that will not be serving the interests of Ontario agriculture. The sooner we have a change, the better.

4:40 p.m.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand in this assembly and join the throne speech debate—proud and at the same time humble, because it is a great responsibility the people of the riding of Nipissing entrusted to me on March 19. After working so hard before and during the election to win the trust of the voters, I, along with all my colleagues on this side of the House, intend to work just as hard to keep that trust.

I would like to begin, Mr. Speaker, by offering you my personal congratulations on your election to the assembly's highest office. You have, sir, the challenge of keeping this oft-times unruly House in order, a challenge which we all expect you will meet with skill and determination.

In addition, I would like to congratulate all members for their personal victories last March. I believe this Parliament, and all members in it, will accomplish much for the people of Ontario in the next four years.

As the member for Nipissing, I want to spend some time talking about the concerns of northerners in general, and the people of Nipissing in particular. I will talk about the unique quality of life we enjoy in northern Ontario and how the provincial government is working to preserve and enhance that lifestyle.

It goes without saying that I am proud to be a member of the Progressive Conservative Party. Equally, I believe northern Ontario is fortunate that the Progressive Conservative Party forms the government because we are the only party with a policy responsive to the unique needs of the people of the north. This party is the only one that recognizes the inherent differences ofthe north and actively encourages the development of the north in a way that we northerners want it. This policy is clearly in contrast to the policies of the two opposition parties.

Take the official opposition, for instance. The Liberals are so concerned about northern development that they want to do away with the whole Ministry of Northern Affairs. Meanwhile, they weep crocodile tears in northern Ontario about how the government is ignoring the real needs of its residents. In other words, the Liberals try to have their cake and eat it too. They charge the government with insensitivity towards the north, yet advocate eliminating the very ministry that has developed special expertise in assisting people in northern Ontario.

It is the same thing with interest rates. Even in my admittedly short time here I have noticed the members opposite getting very worked up about interest rates. They would have one believe they truly have the concerns of Ontarians at heart, yet Liberals give with one hand and take with the other. All of us in this assembly know the real source of high interest rates. It is the federal Liberal government, through the Bank of Canada.

The Liberals say high interest rates are a necessary part of the federal government's anti-inflation policy. Yet, these same Liberals absolutely refuse to restrain their out of control government spending. Their profligacy has reached the point where the federal deficit is now cited as a major cause, if not the major cause, of Canada's inflation problem. All these troubles come from the Liberals, who told us a few years ago that inflation was wrestled to the ground.

I would say to the members opposite, if they are really concerned with the problem of interest rates, why do they not go to the heart of the problem and ask their kissing cousins in Ottawa to change their interest rate policy? That would be a far more constructive action than the charade of concern which I have heard in this House in my short time here. Tell the feds they could learn something from the sort of restraint that we, on this side of the House, have been practising for the past six years. I rather suspect members of the third party could also learn something from the policies of this government.

I mentioned earlier that we are dedicated to encouraging the sort of development that northerners want to see. This is important to us in northern Ontario. Queen's Park does not dictate to us but rather assists private ventures conceived and initiated by northerners in response to northern needs. The type of constant government intervention members of the third party continually advocate is not the sort of government northern Ontario wants. I venture to say that Ontarians generally reject having their lives ordered by distant bureaucrats, no matter how well-intentioned.

Sturdy self-reliance is characteristic of people in northern Ontario and New Democrats would do well to respect that. Certainly the search for nothern solutions to unique northern challenges

is the policy of this government. Any other approach, I submit, would contradict that northern lifestyle that means so much to us.

Let me touch on a few examples where this very sort of local initiative, often with provincial government assistance when requested, has benefited my own riding of Nipissing. In Sturgeon Falls, for instance, the J and L Aircraft Leasing Company Limited is strengthening our local transportation links in creating four new jobs with the aid of a $50,000 provincial loan. In North Bay, Northern Customfab Inc. will create seven new jobs, again helped by a $50,000 loan.

We hear a lot about how northern Ontario must encourage the development of more secondary industry. Here are some announcements made in North Bay last year. Dupont of Canada's Nipissing Works plant is investing $4.6 million to produce polyolefin mesh. The Dr. Paul Bottger Labs is investing $8.7 million to manufacture pharmaceutical products, at the same time creating 60 new jobs. Stowe-Woodward Limited, with a $2 million investment including a $500,000 provincial loan, is manufacturing pulp and paper equipment. This project has established 37 new jobs in North Bay.

Altogether, since its inception in 1971, the Northern Ontario Development Corporation has provided a total of $6.1 million in assistance to some 50 businesses in Nipissing riding. This assistance has helped generate an estimated 670 new jobs in North Bay, Sturgeon Falls, Field, Verner, Springer, and other communities in my riding.

In addition, the Ministry of Northern Affairs—that same ministry the Liberals want to eliminate—through its regional and community priorities budget has also contributed a total of $6.1 million towards projects in Nipissing. This includes industrial parks servicing in North Bay, a Nipissing tourism study and water and sewer improvements in the town of Sturgeon Falls. Perhaps the most vital aid received from the Ministry of Northern Affairs was $4.5 million in flood relief and control throughout the riding of Nipissing and especially to the people in Field after the serious flooding in the spring of 1979.

In my opinion, one more step had to be taken to further the growth of local industry and that step was taken at a meeting I attended and addressed less than two weeks ago with the formation of a Nipissing area industrial association to act as the local board of industrial leadership and development. This body, initiated by municipal officials and the industrialists themselves, will help co-ordinate local development strategies and work to attract new industry and industrial infrastructure to our communities. A strong northern lobby speaking on behalf of our industrial interests can only help develop our industrial base.

Industrial development is picking up throughout the north. Last year alone, in the period up to the end of August, a total of 23 new plants or factory expansions of more than $500,000 each was announced. This represented an investment of some $1.4 billion and will create almost 1,800 new jobs in northern manufacturing. Much of this investment was no doubt attracted to the north by this government's generous program of economic development fund grants and Northern Ontario Development Corporation loans.

4:50 p.m.

The overall business climate in Ontario, as established and maintained by our policies, had a lot to do with this upsurge in investment. Encouraging as these facts are, in the immortal words of Al Jolson, "Ladies and gents, you ain't seen nothin' yet."

The Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program, as outlined in the excellent speech from the throne, foresees much new industrial investment in the north, particularly in the resource machinery and equipment sector. The government will establish a resource machinery advisory board consisting of representatives of resource firms, mining and forestry equipment manufacturers, labourers and government. It will identify manufacturing opportunities and initiate joint ventures to supply and develop the equipment needs of the resources sector. Where necessary, the government will invest directly in existing machinery companies or new companies to help create a more vigorous resource machinery sector.

I know the government is already meeting with representatives of the resource and equipment companies and is generally getting a favourable response to its proposals. I would hope to see suggestions on how we can promote more manufacturing to emerge from these discussions by the early summer.

I was very interested to read the report on provincial rail policy, written by the Ontario Task Force on Provincial Rail Policy and ably chaired by my colleague the member for St. David (Mrs. Scrivener). I am sure northerners generally will follow the progress of the recommendations made by the task force, recommendations that could greatly improve the state of rail transportation in northern Ontario.

The task force starts with the excellent affirmation that an adequate level of services be maintained in the north. This is no mere motherhood proposal because, for many years, the level and quality of our rail service, particularly passenger service, has been deteriorating as the railways cut back on unproductive runs. The report recommends Ontario should speak up more forcefully on behalf of communities and industries that depend on rail service and which might be harmed by changes in the cost and availability of rail services.

These recommendations are aimed particularly at helping our unorganized communities and resource industries. These are realistic proposals that recognize the primary responsibility for providing rail services will continue to rest with the railways and the federal government, but that the province has a responsibility to ensure all points of view are heard.

The task force also makes a number of proposals that lie within provincial jurisdiction. It proposes the province designate at least four centres of railway access and encourage rail transportation and industrial development in these centres with the aim of serving the Canadian and export markets. North Bay was one of the suggested locations, a suggestion I obviously endorse and will support.

Further, the province, through the Ontario Northland Railway, should consider the acquisition of the Canadian National route from North Bay to Toronto. This acquisition would provide, not only real operating advantages to the ONR but better and more efficient service to residents of northern Ontario. For too long northerners have put up with too little co-operation from Canadian National.

The Ontario Northland Railway has well established its role as Ontario's provincial railway. Even Keith Penner, the federal Liberal MP for Cochrane, agrees with this argument.

Last month he wrote in Northern Ontario Business: "I argue that CN has a responsibility in northern Ontario. It should help and not hinder our progress. Unless it is prepared to act differently, it should move over and let another railway do the job. Would not our own provincial crown corporation, the Ontario Northland Railway, be more sensitive to regional needs and aspirations? I think so." That was Mr. Penner and I heartily agree with him and think so too.

There are many other important proposals in this report, far too many for me to list them all. Because of its thoroughness and excellent quality, this report must not vanish into some sort of bureaucratic limbo. I support many of its recommendations and, as far as possible, I shall endeavour to see they are acted upon.

The poor quality of rail service in the north has been a major popular grievance for as long as I can remember, and I am glad to see that the provincial government is now moving in yet another area where the federal Liberals have let northern Ontario residents down.

The Ontario Northland Railway has long been bringing tourists to experience the beauty of northern Ontario. The rugged environment and unspoiled freshness of the north are the foundations of our tourist industry, an industry which is vital to the survival of many communities. Tourists, however, only enjoy the northern environment and the northern lifestyle for a short while. We northerners take it in year round.

The riding of Nipissing exemplifies the general rule of the importance of tourism to local economies. We have worked very hard to develop a year-round tourism industry in Nipissing, an industry that we and the tourists can enjoy 12 months of the year. With this in mind, winter tourism is increasingly important. Members will not be surprised to hear that Lake Nipissing is renowned for its ice fishing. It is so famous, in fact, that some people now fear the lake is being overfished.

Because of the tremendous popularity of fishing in Lake Nipissing, both in winter and summer, a co-operative effort is required to maintain the high quality of the lake. To this end, I have proposed the formation of a study committee for Lake Nipissing. This committee would comprise representatives of the various lake users and associations who would work together to preserve and strengthen the role of an important resource in my riding of Nipissing.

The initial steps towards the establishment of this committee have already been taken under the direction of Dr. Desmond Anthony, a biologist and professor at the fine Nipissing university complex in North Bay. I, and the people of Nipissing, will be looking to this government for support in carrying out any studies required, and in funding the remedial programs necessary for the revitalization of Lake Nipissing.

How many members know that the Nipissing area is developing into a major ski area? We have more than 125 miles of marked and groomed cross-country ski trails, many of them cleared by the Ministry of Natural Resources through its trail development plan. There is an

extremely active Nordic ski club promoting cross-country skiing. There are three major downhill ski facilities available to the people of Nipissing, and to the many people throughout the province who see Nipissing as a winter vacationland.

Winter activities and facilities were extensively promoted by the Ministry of Industry and Tourism's winter newspaper insert, a very successful advertisement for winter tourism right across the province, using the "Ontario: Yours to Discover" theme.

In addition to this important provincial support, the Almaquin-Nipissing Travel Association, representing 10 different tourism and travel associations in Nipissing and Parry Sound, is raising money to further market the area. The pamphlets of this association are crammed with necessary information for the traveller. There is information on camping, motels, hotels, trails, skiing, golfing, museums, hunting and fishing. In fact, the pickerel season begins on May 20, and I invite all members to join me for the famous opening of the pickerel season on Lake Nipissing.

This association is also co-operating with the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission to promote the Chief Commanda II cruise ship on Lake Nipissing. It is a 100-foot triple-deck catamaran specially designed for cruising northern waters.

All these initiatives show that my area is increasingly taking advantage of the possibilities opened up by tourism, yet we know that much remains to be done.

An important step was taken last summer when the Ontario North Now pavilion, conceived and encouraged by my colleague on this side of the House, the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier), opened at Ontario Place. This showplace for northern Ontario will play an important role in revealing the true nature and lifestyle of northern Ontario.

5 p.m.

On behalf of the residents of Nipissing, at this time I would like to extend my compliments to the Premier (Mr. Davis), to the Minister of Northern Affairs, to this government and to the members of the northern Ontario municipalities, who have all worked together to make the Ontario North Now pavilion a reality. I applaud the government's efforts to raise the profile of tourism in the north. It was an excellent decision on the part of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development to pump an extra $2 million into provincial tourism marketing efforts in 1981-82. This brings the total tourism marketing spending to $11.6 million, and will allow a major new ad campaign to be aimed at nearby US markets.

I know that last year Ontario's marketing efforts were highly successful, recording increases in virtually every one of the target markets; and three quarters of Ontarians are now familiar with the Ontario: Yours to Discover campaign. This is an important fact, because 70 per cent of the tourism dollars spent in our province are spent by Ontarians. Last year tourism was worth a record $7.5 billion to the Ontario economy, accounting for one eighth of the gross provincial product. This year tourism revenues are expected to rise by 16 per cent to $8.7 billion.

The throne speech and the BILD program outline a number of initiatives to be taken by this government to further strengthen our tourism industry. The highly successful tourism redevelopment incentive program, TRIP, initiated in 1979, will be extended to December 31, 1984, to help tourist operators expand and upgrade their facilities.

A province-wide grading system for tourism accommodations will be operational by the spring of next year, providing a substantial incentive for owners to improve their lodging facilities.

The Ontario government is encouraging the establisment of a number of four-season, world class resorts, particularly in eastern and northern Ontario. With the co-operation of industry, we shall introduce a comprehensive electronic reservation system to streamline the booking of accommodations and keep Ontario competitive with other jurisdictions.

Finally, the government will provide financial assistance to private marina operators and municipalities for the improvement, expansion and construction of docking and marina services plus ancillary onshore facilities.

These BILD commitments show the importance this government attaches to our tourism industry and demonstrates our determination to keep that industry competitive with the best in the world.

I opened my remarks today with the statement that I was proud to be a member f the Progressive Conservative Party. The brief survey I have just made of some of the concerns of northern Ontario and what I feel are extremely positive responses of this government to these concerns, show why, in my opinion, a PC government is the only government for the north.

The people of northern Ontario, along with their fellow Ontarians across this great province, have entrusted the responsibility of government to us. The BILD program and the speech from the throne show that we fully intend to live up to that responsibility.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Spensieri: Mr. Speaker, as one of the new members returned to this Legislative Assembly from the metropolitan riding of Yorkview, I would first like to congratulate you and the Deputy Speaker on your appointments to these important positions. While I have not had the luxury of being able to compare your performance to that of previous Speakers, I can only say that I view your concern for the back-row members on both sides of the House, and particularly your concern that they be permitted to engage in question period and to participate fully in the proceedings of this House, as a noble, encouraging, and for my part, entirely laudable approach.

It is customary in these circumstances to thank the voters for having provided the member the privilege, the opportunity and the honour of representing them in this august assembly. For me, the perfunctory vote of thanks normally accorded to the ordinary voter after election day is as heartfelt and genuine as it could possibly be. You see, Mr. Speaker, the riding of Yorkview has been represented by a member of the third party for almost as long as the government party has represented the province and, therefore, when I thank the 11,000-odd voters who reposed their faith and confidence in me, I do so with genuine sincerity and also with some degree of relief, I must confess. The outcome could easily have been the continuation of a regime which began when my riding consisted of empty fields and less than 20 per cent of the present population.

The riding of Yorkview today boasts a population eligible to vote in excess of 60,000 people and, by the latest estimate, only 50 per cent of the residents over the age of 18 have satisfied the citizenship and residence requirements to enable them to vote. It is, therefore, a highly ethnic, multiracial and multicultural riding in which wave upon wave of immigrants from all parts of the world have made their homes and are now industriously striving for their piece of the economic pie of this province. The people of my riding can point with pride and a sense of accomplishment to the fact that in the vast majority of their residential streets and local businesses the working language of the everyday residents is neither English nor French but rather Italian.

More than 50 per cent of the residents of Yorkview are of Italian extraction and have made their homes in Yorkview since the post-war period. These original immigrants, together with the original native settlers, form the backbone of the industrious, open-minded and financially sound middle class component of the riding, occupying row upon row of neat, well-kept bungalows and other traditional forms of single family residence which are the mainstay of the residential assessment and revenue for the city of North York and parts of Etobicoke.

Upon this solid middle class component there has been a proliferation and a welcome mix of more than 60,000 rentgeared-to-income units, Ontario Housing units and nonprofit housing units, either owned or operated by the municipality or by the Ontario Housing Corporation with direct provincial involvement. The net result has been a mosaic of peoples, a mosaic of races, and a mosaic of social and economic positions which have not always been harmonious or fully integrated. Over the course of the past five years, thousands upon thousands of immigrants from the East Indian community, from Sri Lanka, from the islands and from South America have added a new dimension and a new strength to my riding, making it the riding with the largest proportion of its people being from the so-called visible minorities.

Needless to say, the task of a legislator and a member of the Legislative Assembly returned from a riding such as this is not an easy ne. For the past 20 years, and I am sure the members of the third party will concur in this, a member who has been well known to all the members and who gained their respect across party lines, Mr. Fred Young, served this riding with diligence and open-mindedness. I can only hope in the course of these four years I will be able to demonstrate to members here and to the people of Yorkview that this tradition of service and integrity in dealing with constituents has been upheld by my election.

About the throne speech itself, I would like to dwell briefly on three encouraging aspects that I see as being of special significance to my riding. I view the government's proposals to encourage job creation by giving a high priority to industrial and technical development, to strike a better balance between work opportunities and skills in our educational facilities, and to encourage and strengthen the apprenticeship program—a

Liberal proposal—as positive steps towards solving the chronic youth unemployment which plagues my riding.

5:10 p.m.

In particular, I trust the government will address itself to the burning issue of providing educational upgrading and retraining to enable the thousands of young residents of Yorkview itself to the burning issue of providing educational upgrading and retraining to enable the thousands of young residents of Yorkview who lack the basic educational requirements even to enter an apprenticeship program to gain such upgrading and prepare themselves for jobs in which a clear need has been demonstrated.

Second, in the area of urban transportation I also view with some optimism, if it is not to be a mere election promise, the government's commitment to review provincial policies for the financing of local public transit in the large urban centre of northwest Metro. In particular, the government promise of an intermediate capacity transit system designed by the Urban Transportation Development Corporation presents some reason for optimism, particularly if the government's efforts in the Metro area are to be expended primarily in the urban core of northwest Metro, which I happen to represent, a core which is now devoid of effective transportation routes to the centre of the city.

During the course of the campaign, discussions were held at the riding level to determine the feasibility of using a large tract of land now owned by the province and running alongside Finch Avenue West as the site for the location of the intermediate capacity transit system line to link northwest Metro to the main subway line at either Spadina or Yonge Street.

Third, the government's pledge for continuous strong support in health care, education care, et cetera, if true, is to be viewed as encouraging for the Yorkview area. Having said this, members opposite should not take my conciliatory comments as being intended to indicate all is well in the best of all possible worlds. Yorkview in particular has been the butt end of a very bad joke when it comes to allocation of expenditures by the province.

Were I to be a cynic, I might conclude that the relative forgetfulness of the provincial government when it comes to providing funding for northwest Metro stems from the fact the Tory government has never in recent history returned a Tory member from my riding. Equally cynical would be the conclusion that representation by a member of the third-place party for a quarter of a century, up to and including my election, might have confirmed in the government's mind the view that Yorkview was slim pickings indeed, and therefore not the appropriate ground for the lavishing of expenditures.

By turning to the Liberal alternative, the Yorkview voters have indicated their disapproval and repudiation of both the philosophies and facile solutions of the Socialists and at the same time an unwillingness to jump into bed with the Tories in order to become the beneficiaries of the ill-gotten fruits of an incestuous marriage intended to elect a government member who no doubt would profess his willingness to become a cabinet minister. It is my determination and purpose that through vigilance, constructive criticism and the effective use of all the resources available to a private member and to a member of the official opposition caucus, Yorkview can be brought into the mainstream of government planning and government funding.

I would like to conclude by saying two things which have become apparent to me during my stay here and during the campaign. In the first place, the thrust of my own party, which has centred largely on attacking and criticizing the goverment, as is the lawful purpose of an official opposition, appears somewhat misplaced in this House when one considers that were it not for the continued presence of the third party a Liberal government would now be installed and in place. It is the clear duty of members of this caucus and of this party to concentrate, along with our attack and criticism of the members opposite, on a concerted and effective campaign to point out to the voters of Ontario the untenable position of our friends from the third party.

Especially after a virtual monopoly of the government benches by members opposite for over half a century, it behooves us as Liberals to speed up the return to a two-party system in this province which can only assist in the change and shift of power, a change of power which can never occur unless and until the already dwindling fortunes of the third party are allowed to dwindle even further towards extinction.

On the home front, as a person who was born and raised in Europe, I have always failed to understand why there should be some reluctance on the part of Ontario Liberals to associate themselves freely and openly with our federal counterparts. In my own riding I was privileged to have been assisted by two ministers of the crown, the Minister of Multiculturalism

and the Solicitor General. As Liberals, whether at the provincial or federal level, they have shown themselves favourably disposed and enthusiastic and willing to assist in the shift of power in this province.

The spirit of co-operation and unity will and must become the norm over the next four years, so that when we enter the next election campaign we will do so as one party sharing a common goal—that of providing the only alternative to the present Tory government.

On this note I conclude my remarks and thank all present fr their attention.

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, the member for Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) was supposed to speak after the member for Yorkview (Mr. Spensieri), but I am delighted to enter the debate. I notice the new member for Yorkview is not only enthusiastic but also a dreamer. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) and the member for Wellington South (Mr. Worton) know very well how hard it is for his dreams to come true. They have been sitting in opposition for many years and know how hard the Tories are to beat—even though they deserve to be beaten. But being a new member, he can afford his optimism.

Since the throne speech we have noticed the new arrogance of this government. I have been a member since 1975, representing the riding of Downsview, and I have always been in a minority situation. In the last five and a half years we saw a government forced to come to terms with the opposition parties. But since the very first day of this new session we have noticed that old habits die hard and the Tories have come back to playing the old tune.

I feel sorry for the people of Ontario, because we are faced with a government that does not understand the reality of Ontario in 1981. Despite all the propaganda, despite all the programs, we know that Ontario is slipping in Confederation every year. We now have a fiscal ability which is the lowest in Canada. Our industrial development in Ontario is the lowest in Canada. There is no solution in sight.

The government is talking now of building a mining machinery industry in northern Ontario. They have been the government for 38 years and they have visited other countries. The Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Grossman) went to Japan and did not learn anything. He wants to replace, with the grandiose idea of BILD, a type of branch plant economy with another branch plant economy.

Last year when he appointed the committee of multinationals to work out a program for the so-called global product mandating, Mr. Lodge, who was the chairman of that commission, came up with recommendations that are quite scary for Ontario. Unfortunately, they have not been publicized as they should have been. Mr. Lodge said that in the present economic situation all the big multinational corporations are trying to rationalize their production lines and therefore are shutting down plant after plant where they are not needed. In Canada's situation, because of the lowering of tariff barriers, these plants are not economically feasible any longer in Canada and are being shut down. Last year we had 30,000 workers laid off because of that situation.

5:20 p.m.

Even if the government's idea is accepted by the multinational corporations which in one way or another are already involved in the global product mandating situation, we will not have a viable manufacturing industry in Ontario because the marketing will always be in the hands of the exporters. These exporters will operate on the basis of the global interest of the multinational corporations and certainly not in the interest of Ontario.

Research and development will not be done locally in Ontario. Because of the rationalization of industry, they will require that R and D be done where the multinationals see fit. This applies especially to the automobile industry which is the most important manufacturing industry in the province. It is slowly decaying and the government is unable to do anything at all.

The Premier (Mr. Davis) and the Minister of Industry and Tourism went to bribe Ford to have a new engine plant built in Windsor. Now we hear that the government of British Columbia is having secret talks with Toyota. What is this government going to do now? Is it also going to bribe Toyota and ask that Toyota bring in industry?

What about the taxpayers of Ontario, of whom the government speaks so often and so wholeheartedly? What is it going to do? Is it going to subsidize multinational corporations in exchange for a few jobs that may or may not come here, as in the case of the pulp and paper companies, the most shameful example of waste of public money?

The government has not been able to make a case to demonstrate money was necessary to rationalize the production of the pulp and paper companies. They did not do it with a commit-

ment that pulp and paper companies would clean up the pollution they created with the complicity of the government for so many years.

We now have thousands of people out of work and we have parts manufacturers closing down because the Big Three—General Motors, Ford and Chrysler—at this time have no interest in buying parts in Ontario and are increasingly building parts in-house because it is more economical. Because of the recession they have to protect jobs in the United States, not only for economic reasons but also because of political pressures in the US.

This proves the failure of this government to face an imaginative industrial strategy which would bring Ontario back to the position that belonged to this province for so many years. I am not saying the responsibility for an industrial strategy belongs only to this government. This is the obvious objection we hear every day. Whenever there is a problem, the government of Ontario tells us: "It is not up to us, it is up to the federal government. This is a federal problem."

We know the federal Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Herb Gray, has been forced to shelve his grandiose economic plan because it is not a priority with the federal government. We understand there are enormous pressures from interested groups which are not willing to change the present economic growth of Canada because they are in a privileged situation in this country. But we do think it is a primary responsibility of this government to look after the welfare of the people of Ontario.

When the Premier tells us that last year 57,000 jobs were created, we know why they were created. It is because a higher number of women are entering the labour market and those jobs are low paid jobs, not high skilled jobs. We think the Premier is wrong—and the government is wrong—when he compares Ontario, as he does every day, not with the most advanced industrial nations, but with South Carolina and the southern states of America, where there are low wages but also low economic development.

We do think that if Ontario does not want to go back to the condition of being a deindustrialized province we must compete and we must meet the challenge of the most advanced countries in the world. We know that the issue of low wages is a phoney one, because we know very well that the automobile industry in Japan and in Europe pays much higher wages than in Canada. They are able not only to produce more than we do in Canada but also to compete with us and to export to Canada.

I think, unless this government takes the initiative for a more radical revision of the auto pact, which is not very popular with many people, as I said in my first throne speech in 1976, and I repeat it now, unless we renegotiate the auto pact the situation in Ontario will become worse and worse.

Also, I think there are other solutions available. In yesterday's news from East Germany, the East Germans are negotiating with Toyota a contract that will allow them to build Toyotas under licence. I guess three or four years down the road we will be importing Toyotas from East Germany. I already know the outcry coming from the most retrograde sectors of our society, because we import Communist-made cars.

There has never been an initiative by this government, because they always talk about the private sector, they always talk about free enterprise, they are willing to set up crown corporations when it is convenient to them, but they are not willing to tackle the most serious problem we have here in Ontario; that is, the erosion of the most important economic sector of the province, the manufacturing sector. In the first quarter of this year, in auto parts, we have already a deficit of more than $1 billion. If we calculate how many jobs we lose, apart from the inflation we import, then we will realize the enormous harm this government is doing to the workers of Ontario.

In the throne speech there is nothing innovative. There are no new ideas. There is BILD, but that is an acronym. We do not solve the problems of the province with acronyms. We need new ideas, we need actions, and we will not have either. I was extremely disappointed in listening to the throne speech when I did not hear any reference at all to the Workmen's Compensation Board. This is a most serious problem, in human terms and in economic terms.

5:30 p.m.

Since July 1979, although the Minister of Labour (Mr. Elgie) always expresses his concern for injured workers and workers in general, the injured workers of Ontario have not received an increase in their benefits. In 1981, the wife of a worker who dies on the job still receives $410 a month. That is a shameful pension which speaks to the insensitivity and callousness of this government.

We remember the excuses the government has offered from time to time. We remember that the former Minister of Labour (Miss Stephenson) ordered an actuarial study in order to

delay increasing the benefits. After the study was completed some considerable time later, what came out was that the situation was not only economically sound but that the employers had reduced their contribution to the Workmen's Compensation Board. For the last three years, they have been decreasing.

Professor Weiler, who was commissioned to do a report under the present Minister of Labour, presented this report in November. There was a long series of recommendations and we are now waiting for the final report to be tabled some time in the future, and with the Tory government we never know when the future will come. In the meantime, the injured workers are still receiving the same pensions they were receiving in 1979. That is not only irresponsible, but outrageous. This government has no justification at all for delaying increases.

The problems of injured workers, though, are not fashionable. The government has mounted an incredible propaganda machine, at a cost of $180,000, to operate among the ethnic groups especially. This is mentioned in my written question to the Minister of Labour in Hansard. The government is making efforts to portray the Workmen's Compensation Board as a humanitarian agency which takes care of the injured workers. But we know the misery of workers who, once they are injured, receive pitiful pensions which are totally unrelated, as Professor Weiler says—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We would like to remind you that the Workmen's Compensation Board is funded entirely by the employers of the province. You said it was entirely a government activity.

Mr. Di Santo: We know that it is funded by the employers of the province, but we know that it is under the control of—

Mr. Shymko: Compare it to countries such as France and Italy. You would see the difference.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Let the member proceed.

Mr. Di Santo: The member for High Park-Swansea became a part of the patronage apparatus of the party as chairman of the multicultural committee after he was defeated in the federal election last year. Obviously he is a defender of your system because he has been living within the system. I am speaking on behalf of the injured workers and if—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Let Mr. Di Santo proceed.

Mr. Di Santo: If the member for High Park-Swansea has the courage to do so, he should stand up and say that injured workers are treated fairly.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Di Santo, you will please proceed with your speech. Do not enter into a debate.

Mr. Di Santo: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I was anxious to see what comparison the member for High Park-Swansea wanted to make, because the Premier compares Ontario with South Carolina. He probably wants to compare the Workmen's Compensation Board with Zimbabwe or Namibia. We are talking—

Interjection.

Mr. Di Santo: Probably in Libya there is a better system.

Mr. Speaker: Please ignore the interjections.

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, of the injured workers who are partially disabled, especially those injured workers who belong to ethnic groups and who have language problems, we know by experience and by the statistics that are given to us by the Ministry of Labour that a great number of them cannot re-enter the labour market, because there is no provision whatsoever in the law of Ontario that compels employers to hire the injured workers back.

That is one of the recommendations of the Weiler report. Perhaps it would be a good idea if the member for High Park-Swansea were to read the report; he might learn something. If he compared the system in Ontario with the existing systems in Europe, France, Italy, Britain or West Germany, then he might learn that there is a quota system in those nations that completely solves that problem. There is no problem for injured workers who are partially disabled. Their disabilities are assessed not on the basis of what they can perform but on the basis of a table that the workers call the "meat chart."

An hon. member: Ask him if he is going to support the Ombudsman's report on Thursday night.

Mr. Di Santo: That is the other point that I was going to make. The Ombudsman made a recommendation on 100 cases in which he said evaluation is simply illogical; it does not make sense and it is not just. This is a system that has to be changed.

Mr. Cooke: Is he going to support the Ombudsman's report on Thursday night?

Mr. Di Santo: We will see Thursday night. I would like to see the member for High Park-

Swansea stand up and speak against the Ombudsman, because he represents a riding with ethnic people who have the same problems as the people I, the member for Yorkview and many other members represent. These are people who are thrown out by a system that is cruel, that excludes them and that treats them like a commodity. They are used as long as they are healthy, but once they are disabled they are thrown out like garbage. That is the way his government treats injured workers.

In the throne speech I did not hear any mention about multiculturalism which is fashionable—

Mr. Pollock: We are supposed to be Canadian.

Mr. Di Santo: What was that?

Mr. Speaker: Just carry on, Mr. Di Santo, please.

Mr. Di Santo: I can see that the new members of the Conservative Party have not been trained yet and told to restrain themselves. I want to tell you that of course we are all Canadians. I am Canadian. I was not born here, but I am Canadian. I represent Canadians.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Di Santo, would you please address your remarks to the chair.

Mr. Di Santo: Yes, Mr. Speaker, through you I want to tell that member that the Canadians I represent may come from many other countries of the world but they are contributing to the welfare of this country. They are working and building this country. I am not ashamed. I am proud of having chosen this country as my second country. I do not regret at all that I am an immigrant, because anyone in this country gives his contribution to the development of his province.

5:40 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We are all immigrants. Some of us have been here longer than others, that is all.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Mr. Di Santo has the floor.

Mr. Di Santo: The Minister of Education perhaps should coach the member for Hastings-Peterborough.

I think multiculturalism is very important because, whether one likes it or not, we have a composite society, a society made up of people who came from many parts of the world, who are here to stay, who must live together. Multiculturalism is an important tool to create in our society the harmony that is necessary if one wants to build a stronger province and a stronger Canada.

This government, unfortunately, has treated multiculturalism as tokenism by appointing the Ontario Advisory Committee on Multiculturalism and Citizenship just to reward defeated candidates—Tory candidates, of course.

Hon Miss Stephenson: The council is not made up of defeated candidates.

Mr. Di Santo: But in this party, we have been fighting—that was the member for High Park-Swansea, Mrs. Stephenson.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am not Mrs. Stephenson.

Mr. Di Santo: I am old-fashioned. I apologize to the Minister of Education, but I am old-fashioned and I call my mother Mrs. Di Santo.

In this party we have been fighting for many years, and we were able to force the government—just by accident it was before the 1975 election—to introduce the heritage language program. That was a very important program the government has been trying to curtail time and again through cutbacks.

We know the secret memorandum that was sent out by the Ministry of Education just before the last election.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There was no secret memorandum sent out—none.

Mr. Di Santo: I acknowledge the Minister of Education is recognizing that the memorandum was public, but still it was detestable because it was intended to curtail a program we thought was the first step towards the integration of that program into the normal curriculum.

The government not only opposed integrating the heritage language program into the normal curriculum by voting against it, by actually blocking the private member's bill introduced by my former colleague the member for Parkdale, but also has slowly tried to undercut the program, because we know many boards of education have not approved the program or those who have reluctantly accepted the program are trying to limit it. That happens.

We know the situation in North York, the city that the Minister of Education and I represent. We know the situation in North York, in Scarborough, in Etobicoke. It is a moral responsibility of the minister, if she wants to prove that is not tokenism, that the government should take the initiative and integrate the programs into the normal curriculum.

I want to say a few words about TVOntario.

This is another aspect of this government, so sensitive to the needs of the multicultural groups in our society.

Members will remember, and certainly you will, Mr. Speaker, when Connections was broadcast by the CBC and my community reacted angrily because we thought that type of program served no purpose other than to describe us in a certain way that was unacceptable. It did not reflect reality, because my community is a law-abiding community. It is made up of citizens who are respectful of the law, hard workers, people who have contributed to the building of this city.

I asked the Minister of Culture and Recreation (Mr. Baetz) why TVOntario did not undertake programs that had two purposes: on the one hand to help other Canadians understand the complex and multicultural reality of this society, and on the other hand to give to the ethnic groups in our society an opportunity to express themselves, their culture and their traditions so there would be a major understanding. Nothing was done.

We have repeatedly asked the Minister of Culture and Recreation to take some initiative, but the government has done nothing. Not only that, in the throne speech there is no mention whatsoever—except a mention of the expansion of TVOntario to other areas—in relation to those millions of taxpayers who belong to other ethnic groups and who, I think, deserve a service like any other Canadians.

I want to say this to the member for Hastings-Peterborough (Mr. Pollock). The government has done nothing with TVOntario and will not do anything. I think it has a moral obligation to serve the ethnic communities in Ontario.

Of course, this lack of service to the ethnic communities is reflected in many other areas. It is reflected in the social services. We know there is a minimum number of people who speak other languages, and that creates enormous problems, especially in areas of high ethnic concentration.

We know, and perhaps the government should realize we know, that in government offices one very rarely finds names that belong to other groups in the higher echelons of the bureaucracy. I do not think those people are less bright or less competent than other people, but there is a mechanism that does not work for them, because the room at the top is very limited and there is not much room for the ethnic people to go up.

The government should look at that reality and should not be surprised when, at elections, the ethnic voters resoundly reject the Conservative candidates. They are not stupid. They understand reality and they will not allow the government to treat them as they do and then give their votes.

I think the throne speech is a further indication of the wrong direction in which the government is going. For this reason, together with my party, I will vote against the throne speech hoping—and I know hopes die hard—that after this debate the government may learn something, because the reality of March 19 is not the end of the world. The world changes continually, and yesterday was a great day in France when a Socialist President was elected.

5:50 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: In Berlin the Socialist mayor was defeated.

Mr. Di Santo: I know the Minister of Education has a great sense of humour, but that proves my point. Things may change, and I hope they will change here also.

On motion by Mr. Barlow, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

CONTENTS

Monday May 11, 1981

Hotel inspection, point of privilege, Mr. Smith, Mr. Speaker. 541

Oral questions

Bennett, Hon. C. F., Minister of Housing:
Canada Homes, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Smith. 545

Elgie, Hon. R. G., Minister of Labour:
Plant shutdowns, Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Copps. 544
Ford workers, Mr. Wrye, Mr. Cooke. 547

Henderson, Hon. L. C., Minister of Agriculture and Food:
Interest rates, Mr. Riddell. 548
Toronto stockyards, Mr. MacDonald. 549

McMurtry, Hon. R. R., Attorney General and Solicitor General:
Police car chases, Mr. Smith, Mr. Ruston, Mr. Breaugh. 541
Ku Klux Klan, Mr. Breaugh. 552

Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities:
Nursing applications, Mr. Smith, Mr. Wrye. 551

Walker, Hon. G. W., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Provincial Secretary for Justice:
Astra/Re-Mor, Mr. Smith, Mr. Swart, Mr. Breithaupt. 543
Canada Homes, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Smith. 545
Employee health and safety, Mr. Martel. 548
Canada Homes, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Smith. 549

Wiseman, Hon. D. J., Minister of Government Services:
Government purchasing, Mr. Boudria, Mr. Laughren. 550

French election, comments by Mr. Cassidy. 544

Canada Homes, point of privilege, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Walker. 553

First reading

Town of St. Marys Act, Bill Pr12, Mr. Edighoffer. 553

Throne speech debate

Mr. Ruprecht. 553
Mr. MacDonald. 557
Mr. Harris. 566
Mr. Spensieri. 570
Mr. Di Santo. 572
Adjournment. 576

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Bennett, Hon. C. F.; Minister of Housing (Ottawa South PC)
Boudria, D. (Prescott-Russell L)
Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
Breithaupt, J. R. (Kitchener L)
Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
Copps, S. M. (Hamilton Centre L)
Davis, Hon. W. G.; Premier (Brampton PC)
Di Santo, O. (Downsview NDP)
Elgie, Hon. R. G.; Minister of Labour (York East PC)
Grossman, Hon. L. S.; Minister of Industry and Tourism (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
Harris, M. D. (Nipissing PC)
Henderson, Hon. L. C.; Minister of Agriculture and Food (Lambton PC)
Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)
MacDonald, D. C. (York South NDP)
Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
McMurtry, Hon. R. R.; Attorney General and Solicitor General (Eglinton PC)
Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
Pollock, J. (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
Reid, T. P. (Rainy River L-Lab.)
Riddell, J. K. (Huron-Middlesex L)
Ruprecht, T. (Parkdale L)
Ruston, R. F. (Essex North L)
Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea PC)
Smith, S. L. (Hamilton West L)
Spensieri, M. A. (Yorkview L)
Stephenson, Hon. B. M.; Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities (York Mills PC)
Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Turner, Hon. J. M.; Speaker (Peterborough PC)
Walker, Hon. G. W.; Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Provincial Secretary for Justice (London South PC)
Wiseman, Hon. D. J.; Minister of Government Services (Lanark PC)
Wrye, W. M. (Windsor-Sandwich L)

Ontario

No. 17

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



First Session, Thirty-Second Parliament
Tuesday, May 12, 1981
Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

Hansard subscription price is $15.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Central Purchasing Service, Print Procurement Section, Ministry of Government Services, 8th Floor, Ferguson Block, Parliament Buildings, Toronto M7A 1N3. Phone (416) 965-2238.

Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, May 12, 1981

The House met at 2:02 p.m.

Prayers.

ESTIMATES

Hon. Mr. McCague: Mr. Speaker, I have a message signed by the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor in his own hand.

Mr. Speaker: John B. Aird, the Lieutenant Governor, transmits estimates of certain sums required for the services of the province for the year ending March 31, 1982, and recommends them to the Legislative Assembly, Toronto, May 12, 1981.

COMMENTS BY MINISTER

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: Last Thursday, at the beginning of a response to a question from the member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht), I made a comment to which apparently some members opposite have taken some offence. In the interests of harmony and making your Speakership fruitful and harmonious all around, I am pleased to withdraw that remark.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

JOHN FISHER PAPERS

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce to honourable members that the personal, private and business papers of the late John Fisher have been donated to the archives of Ontario.

Mr. Fisher made his gift to the province last November, three months before his untimely death. Honourable members will, I am sure, share my own personal pleasure that he chose to make such a gift. His papers are a wonderful legacy to a country and a people he loved so deeply. That affection was returned with the fond nickname "Mr. Canada."

His papers have a twofold purpose. They paint a brilliant picture of the man and his times through his words, and they speak to all Canadians about ourselves and our country.

The papers that are now completely catalogued at the archives include scripts from his much-loved radio shows and research files on animals, people, communities, personalities and special events covering 31 years of broadcasting. As well, there are files from his days as Prime Minister John Diefenbaker's special assistant and as commissioner to the centennial commission.

A young country like ours is enriched by the generous bequest of John Fisher. I know that all honourable members will share in my gratitude that Mr. Fisher chose to add to our heritage by bestowing this gift on the people of Ontario, and I know that all honourable members will want to join me in welcoming to this House the late Mr. Fisher's wife, Mrs. Cathy Fisher, and his son, Mr. John Fisher, Jr. who, Mr. Speaker, are in your gallery.

PROFESSIONAL BOXING

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, the sport of professional boxing recently has been the subject of considerable public and government concern. On July 16, 1980, only days after Cleveland Denny died following a knockout in a nontitle fight with Gaetan Hart in Montreal, a federal task force was set up by the Honourable Gerald Reagan, federal minister responsible for fitness and amateur sport, to look into the organization and operation of professional and amateur boxing in Canada.

Over the years there have been many ring deaths and numerous instances where boxers have suffered serious brain damage. While it may be impossible to eliminate death or even serious injury from the sport of boxing, I am convinced that much can be done to minimize the potential for these occurrences, and Ontario has been a leader in this regard.

Three members of my ministry sat on the federal task force: Mr. Jim Vipond, Ontario's athletics commissioner; Mr. Clyde Gray, Ontario's boxing supervisor; and Dr. Bruce Stewart, a noted Toronto neurologist and the commission's medical director. I am pleased to recognize their efforts at this time and to say that Ontario has been a forerunner in implementing the recommendations of the task force; indeed, I believe it has been the only province so to do.

The major recommendations made by the task force include a provision to establish provincial boxing authorities in every province

in Canada (Ontario has had a commission in place since the 1940s) and a further provision to empower the ring physician to stop a fight for medical reasons (Ontario has had this in place since August 1980).

The task force also recommended that uniform medical standards should be developed for boxers, referees and judges; for the most part, this has already been done in Ontario. We have drafted the regulation, adopted the medical criteria set out in the task force recommendations and have the new forms in preparation. A recommendation that boxers be suspended for their own medical safety for 60 days following a knockout has been in effect in Ontario since August 1980.

The establishment of a data bank and record-keeping system to track boxer fight records and medical histories was recommended and the Ontario Athletics Commission is already in the process of setting up the system. The federal government will be responsible for setting the system up Canada-wide, but in the interim our own commission has established a computer link with the New York State Athletics Commission data bank; it should be operational within two weeks.

We have also redesigned the forms in the Ontario athletics commissioner's office in an effort to make the dissemination and gathering of information easier for boxing authorities. We already automatically send fight results to the boxer's home jurisdictions. This would include information about a knockout, suspension or any serious injury. The medical director, or one of his trained physicians, would determine if an injury were serious enough to be reported.

All Ontario boxers will also be required to carry a passport type of licence, which will show their fight record and medical record. Entries will be made immediately after a medical examination or after a fight.

The task force noted that, in the Denny fight, previous recent knockouts and difficult fights not knowingly reported may possibly have caused the fighter's death. It is hoped that the passport system will help eliminate this potential cause of death or serious injury.

2:10 p.m.

The commission also took action recently to ban unsanctioned, "tough guy" or "so you think you're tough" boxing events. Letters were sent to every newspaper in the province asking them to refuse advertisements from the promoters of these unsanctioned events. The athletics commission is now taking further steps to ensure that these bouts do not take place by asking owners of licensed establishments and arenas as well as the Ontario Provincial Police to notify the commission of any unsanctioned events. We are aware that untrained competitors could face the risk of serious injury or even death by taking part in such events.

Our athletics commissioner and supervisor of boxing are also working to raise standards of officiating in this province. Mr. Vipond and Mr. Gray will be setting up instructional clinics for judges, referees and timekeepers in the near future. They will also be liaising with other boxing authorities, particularly in the bordering states of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, to establish lines of communication and a basis for exchanging information and setting standards for officials.

I have mentioned the name of Dr. Stewart several times in connection with this ministry. He has worked for the commission on an informal basis over the past few years, acting as a medical adviser on boxing matters. His new mandate recognizes his past contributions to the commission as a medical adviser, and his position as medical director will give him the opportunity to put into place, on behalf of the public and the boxing fraternity, the ideas he has advocated in the past. We are delighted to be able to give him this new mandate.

Dr. Stewart will be setting up training seminars for doctors from several cities, including Ottawa, Toronto, Windsor, Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay. These doctors will be trained specifically through the use of videotaped fights, particularly where death or injury of a fighter has occurred.

I am confident that these initiatives will minimize the potential for serious injury or death of a professional boxer in Ontario.

ONTARIO FIRE CODE

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, later this afternoon I will be introducing an act to amend the Fire Marshals Act. As honourable members will know, this act will provide the legislative framework to authorize the making of a fire code, which will contain the substantive rules, by regulation.

It is my intention that the Ontario fire code will become law within a period of not more than four months. The amendments I am introducing today are basically similar to those contained in Bill 141, which was awaiting second reading when the Legislature prorogued at Christmas.

There are four new provisions designed to clarify the interrelationship with the building code and to ensure compatibility. Another change would give the fire code precedence over municipal bylaws concerning fire prevention. This last provision is similar to section 26 of the Building Code Act, 1974. This is in line with our intention to provide a set of uniform and consistent fire safety rules that would apply across Ontario.

Let me briefly give honourable members some background on this legislation. The Ontario fire code advisory committee was established in November 1976 to develop a draft Ontario fire code for public comment by the end of 1978.

The committee's report was published in the Ontario Gazette of January 13, 1979, and significant public comment has been received as a result. Over these past months a committee under the chairmanship of the fire marshal has been preparing the fire code, with full participation by the public and private sectors.

The government now also has the benefit of the very excellent series of recommendations made by the coroner's jury that looked into the tragic fire at the Inn on the Park. One of their key recommendations was that the province provide a uniform fire code as soon as possible.

I should also explain that the fire marshal and municipal fire departments have traditionally been responsible for the fire safety in existing buildings. The Fire Marshals Act currently authorizes his agents to inspect buildings and gives them broad powers to make orders.

The fire code will provide a written set of fire safety standards in a comprehensive form so that both the inspectors and the building owners will know where they stand.

I also wish to advise the Legislature that senior officials in my ministry are currently reviewing all 34 recommendations made by the Inn on the Park jury, including the proposal that the Ontario fire marshal's office be designated as the only agency to conduct fire safety inspections.

It is my hope that all members of the House will join in supporting this most important legislation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: Last week a bill was introduced by the Minister of Industry and Tourism concerning Massey-Ferguson. The only compendium with that bill was a statement that simply outlined the purpose of the bill, something that could also be read in the legislation.

I remind the Speaker and the minister that rule 32(c) of the standing orders states, "On the introduction of a government bill, a compendium of background information shall be delivered to the opposition critics."

So that we on this side of the floor can make an intelligent decision on the legislation, I wish to ask the Speaker to ask the minister to file with this Legislature the five-year business plan that convinced this government to go along with the deal to support Massey-Ferguson and to file copies of the written agreement between the province and Massey-Ferguson that will outline its commitments on research development, jobs and other guarantees. We are very interested in seeing this.

If there is no written agreement between the provincial government and Massey-Ferguson, there must be some form of letter of intent on which the agreement will be based. That should be filed so members can have an informative discussion, rather than speaking without basing their positions on some facts.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I will be pleased to review the situation with a view to providing the honourable member with all the information we possibly can. We literally have several hundred thousand pages of documents, some of which may be made public and some of which may not; so it becomes a difficult and complex task. We will be pleased to review them to see what we can supply the members.

Mr. Smith: I presume that was an undertaking to give some of the documents to both opposition parties.

ORAL QUESTIONS

NURSING HOME INFORMATION

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. I wish to ask the minister whether he shares the view of his colleague the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Walker) regarding the value of his nursing home inspection service.

I remind the minister that his colleague said, in essence, "If you have two eyes, if you can see lightning and hear thunder, it seems to me you can go in and look at a nursing home and see whether or not the floors are clean, whether or not the level of care is valid, whether or not the conduct and care is proper."

If the minister agrees that is all that is really necessary and the only qualifications that are required, will he explain why he has a nursing home inspection service at all and, if his inspec-

tors are finding other important information that is worth paying for, why is that information kept secret from the public and from members of the Legislature?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, the information is not kept secret. It has been my policy over the four years and some months I have been in the ministry that whatever information I get with respect to the inspection of a nursing home is conveyed in its entirety to an inquiring member or member of the public, to whoever has asked for it.

Through a variety of measures we have taken in the inspection service in the last few years, we have been able to improve considerably on their efficiency, in particular by our actions of about three years ago in identifying a list of homes that habitually seemed to be coming up on our complaints list. Instituting a team inspection process has been very productive in getting a number of those homes out of the business, in effect forcing them to sell or merge with other homes, resulting in either significantly renovated or completely new homes.

I also wish to inform the honourable member that my concern all along with respect simply to taking the actual working document of the inspector and plunking it on a table has been the whole question of confidentiality with respect to the names of patients, the treatment modalities of patients and a whole variety of things.

At present we are working on a new inspection form that is basically a numerical rating for the various subject areas we investigate, such as fire, safety, nutrition, the environmental qualities of the home and so forth. When those forms are completed and we begin to use them, they can be made available to whoever wants to see them at the nursing home so he can get an idea of how that nursing home rates.

2:20 p.m.

Mr. Smith: While we are certainly very much in favour of such a rating form that would be publicly available, will the minister please explain to this House why it is that the present reports done by government inspectors should be kept secret simply on the basis, as he says, that there are names that might be identified?

Does the minister not agree that all that needs to be done is to white out these names so that people who are interested in the quality of the various nursing homes to which their relatives and their constituents are being sent will have the opportunity to read this information, which we pay a lot of money for and which highly qualified inspectors presumably are busy amassing?

Why can we not see those reports with the names whited out if confidentiality is a problem? What conceivable excuse can there be for sending inspectors into nursing homes that are the recipients of many public dollars with public people as patients? What conceivable reason can there be for keeping those reports secret from the rest of us?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: With respect, I think I have covered that today and on many previous occasions. Is the honourable member suggesting that a report asked for by the Minister of Health, delivered to the Minister of Health, then conveyed to the Leader of the Opposition as a member of this assembly, or to any citizen of this province, is not to be believed? It is certainly as good as or better than any working papers used by the inspectors—much better.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary: How is it that the city of Windsor, which is now passing a bylaw for rest and lodging homes, is going to put in a section that will allow the public to have access to files on each of the rest and lodging homes? If they can do it at that level, why can this government not do the same thing at the provincial level?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, with respect, rest and lodging homes are not dealing with the treatment of patients. They are not dealing with the question of information on drugs. They are not dealing with information about the medical history of patients. They are dealing with quite different information.

I have not seen what they are planning to do in Windsor, but they may very well be planning on something like the forms we are currently developing, forms that will eventually be available in the nursing homes and can be asked for.

Mr. Newman: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: May I ask that the minister require the nursing homes to post the reports of the ministry so that the public coming in will not necessarily have to ask but can see in a given spot the complete report as to the value and type of care an individual receives in such nursing homes?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I will take the suggestion under advisement, Mr. Speaker. If we were going to do that, I think there would need to be some further indication provided and, to have the numerical rating system explained and to discuss it, we should approach the administrator or the director of nursing or whomsoever. But I will certainly take that under advisement.

NURSING APPLICATIONS

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Colleges and Universities, again taking up the subject of admission procedures by which people are selected for nursing schools.

Is the minister now aware that at St. Lawrence College and at Loyalist College the computer is making the final decision as to who is able to be accepted into nursing school? Is she aware that at George Brown College a decision has been made to randomly select applicants for admission to nursing school?

Is she aware that 675 applications were received at Algonquin College in Ottawa for 130 positions, that 530 of the people were found to qualify and, after that, the choice was made simply by random computer selection?

On the other hand, is she aware that at Ryerson, Humber, Seneca, Fanshawe and Conestoga they are still trying to pick the best applicants, no matter how many apply, and they are not relying on a raffle ticket or a lottery approach?

Will the minister finally stand in this House and say that, just as medical schools, law schools and many nursing schools try to select the best people by the most sensible criteria they can think of, every nursing school and every college and university and every program in Ontario will do away with this random selection procedure and pick not those who just manage to reach a mediocre level of performance and get by but genuinely try to choose the best for every available place?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member has obviously forgotten the purpose for which community colleges were established. It was to provide an educational program for specific training for graduates of the secondary school program at the grade 12 level and for those who were considered to be mature students on the basis of the period of time out of school and their age.

If we were to give preference only to academic performance in all of the areas that the honourable member—

Mr. Smith: Nobody said that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh, that is just what he said.

Mr. Smith: No, no, it is not.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh yes, it is. The member should sit down. Does he want an answer?

Mr. Smith: Don't tell me to sit down.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Do you have a point of privilege, Mr. Smith?

Mr. Smith: Yes, Mr. Speaker. If you will check the record, you will find, and the minister will find, that what I said was that they should pick the best by whatever criteria seem sensible. The best at many schools—those for mature students and so on, for instance—is not determined totally by academic standing, Mr. Speaker, as you well know, but is based on many other achievements and experiences that people have had in life, and on a personal interview, a questionnaire and a number of other things. That is exactly what I said. Let the minister correct her statement and not attribute words to me that I did not say.

Mr. Speaker: The minister will proceed to answer the question.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the honourable member did imply, if he did not say directly, that academic performance was the criterion. However, I remind him that what we are attempting to do is to ensure that the students who are qualified for limited-placement courses are given the fairest possible chance to participate in those courses.

As an example, at Loyalist College, about which a question was asked earlier, the initial selection is based upon academic qualifications for nursing at that college: the secondary-school graduation diploma with a minimum of 27 credits, including at least two science subjects. Preference is given to students who have completed thollowing courses: biology at the general or advanced level, chemistry at the general or advanced level, mathematics at the general or advanced level, and English throughout the course.

Group interviews are carried out at that college with eight potential candidates and two members of the faculty at a time. During this time the faculty members attempt to share information about the program; receive the responses of the student and judge the appropriateness of those responses; have each individual applicant complete his or her profile, which is a written document that provides information to those who are in the selection process; expose all of those potential candidates to some problem-solving situations to try to assess their skill as well as communication skills, and explain college activities.

The applicants are assessed on this basis first, and when all of those who have been considered to be appropriate and qualified for admission to the course—

Ms. Copps: Time. Time.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: If the member for Hamilton Centre will kindly stop crying "Time," I will be pleased to complete the answer to the question.

Mr. Speaker: You will ignore the interjections and proceed.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the number of acceptable candidates—those who are considered to be qualified—is larger than the number of places that are available, they are randomly selected through a computer process. That seems to be the fairest way to carry out that kind of assessment for those who are equally qualified for the course.

Mr. Smith: Do I take it that the minister is willing to recommend this same procedure, a procedure by which at Algonquin, for instance, 530 of 675 applications for 130 positions were judged to be equal from the minister's point of view and they were then randomly chosen?

Does the minister not recognize te message that this system gives to every sudent in our schools today, that all you ave t do is get through—get through to the basic, lowest level just so you can qualify—and after that it is in the lap of the computer and you hope your number pops up?

Does she know the message of mediocrity that gives to every student in Ontario? Does she recommend this same system for the law schools and the medical schools of Ontario?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Tht isobviously the way the honourable member got into the medical school at McGill, at any rat. This member obviously knows nothing about excellence in education, and he obviously is not prepared to look at the ways in which fairness can be provided for all of the students who qualify for limited-enrolment courses.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Philip: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Will the minister not agree that the random selection method only makes sense if adequate counselling and academic upgrading facilities are available in each of the community colleges? Will she not agree that such staff is currently not available in the community colleges?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, Mr. Speaker, I do not agree.

Mr. Sweeney: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Can the minister indicate to us what other courses at what other coleges use this particular procedure? How widespread is it?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it is limited to those courses for which there is a very specific enrolment capacity related to the technical facilities necessary for the courses or to the clinical experience necessary, as in nursing, which of course is defined by the institutional care spaces available to provide that part of the educational program.

REAL ESTATE COMPANY MERGER

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Housing, the minister of high-priced housing.

In the light of the reports that Cadillac Fairview, which is the largest public real estate development corporation in Canada, and Bramalea, which is one of the 10 largest, intend to merge and that the merger would create the largest real estate company in Canada and one of the largest in the world, what steps does the government intend to take to ensure that the rodut of this marriage is affordable husing for people on average incomes here in Ontario and not just further exports of Canadian capital to build offices and high-rise retail complexes in Houston, Dallas, Los Angeles and other parts of the United States?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: First of all, Mr. Speaker, I must say that the president of Bramalea Limited did call me yesterday morning to advise me that they were having some very preliminary discussions with Cadillac Fairview on a possible merger, and I use the words "possible merger." But I must say, in respect to Bramalea and Cadillac Fairvew, I think they are two companies that have tried to respond to market requirements in this province and in other parts of Canada.

In the Ontario rental construction loan program, which this government introduced about three or four months ago, one of the largest applications for development of rental accommodation in the medium and lower price ranges was in Bramalea, in the Brampton area, involving some 1,285 units.

I think these companies have displayed very adequately to the people of this province that they have contributed substantially to the housing stock in all price ranges.

Mr. Cassidy: Is the minister aware that Cadillac Fairview, which will make up about three quarters of the combined assets of this company if the merger goes forward, currently has projects in Toronto, Ottawa and Quebec City in the residential real estate market in condominiums,

but is currently continuing or starting projects in the United States, in San Francisco; Santa Ana; Los Angeles; Seattle; Houston; Dallas; New Orleans; Mobile, Alabama; Miami; Fort Lauderdale; West Palm Beach; West Chester county; the borough of Manhattan; Philadelphia; Washington; Arlington; Montgomery county and Kona, Hawaii?

My question to the minister is this: What steps is the government going to take to make sure that this conglomerate real estate company, with $3.5 billion worth of assets, puts some housing into Ontario that people can afford and not into every community in the United States, leaving our people out in the cold?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Cadillac Fairview, Bramalea, Markborough, Campeau Corporation, Olympia and York and a number of other companies have developed very adequately in this province. During this period of time, firms like Cadillac Fairview and Bramalea have developed a great deal of expertise; and while they continue to develop in Ontario and other parts of Canada in the housing, industrial and commercial fields, at the same time they have been able to expand their operations into the United States and other foreign countries and to make opportunities for Canadians in those markets.

I see the leader of the third party sitting there with a bit of a scowl on his face. Let me tell him that Campeau Corporation came from the great city of Ottawa—I forgot, I should have mentioned that one of the Leader of the Opposition's favourite development firms, Minto Construction from Ottawa, has also expanded its horizons beyond the borders of Ontario and Canada into the United States. I believe that is one firm the Leader of the Opposition has always greatly admired for its entrepreneurship and philosophy.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: The minister has twice mentioned the Leader of the Opposition when he meant to say the leader of the third party.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I apologize to the Leader of the Opposition. I would not want to elevate the leader of the third party to that position. It would not be very becoming—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister will proceed.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, while it is easy for the leader of the third party to sit here and be somewhat critical of these Canadian companies that have expanded far beyond the borders of Ontario and Canada, I think it speaks extremely well of the talent in this country that now, in most world markets, we Canadians lead in the development industry. They have been invited into the United States. They are making money. They are Canadian companies and are proud to realize to what a great extent their shareholders are Canadian.

Mr. Cassidy: Between the close of markets on Thursday and the close of market yesterday, the shares of Bramalea went up 25 per cent on the Toronto Stock Exchange and the shares of Cadillac Fairview went up by six per cent, all in the course of two business days.

Will the minister explain why the government refuses to allow a dollar-a-bet casino at the Canadian National Exhibition but allows this kind of casino to take place in the Toronto Stock Exchange based on property speculation at the expense of ordinary people in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: If one did not own some of the stock, I suppose one might be slightly jealous or envious of those who happen to own some. But frankly—

Mr. Cassidy: Oh, do you?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: No. I have to tell the member, as he knows, that the oath of office for a minister states that he can have no outside interest, in the stock market in particular.

I do not know what the relevance of the leader of the third party's question happens to be. We believe in the stock market and in companies being allowed to issue stock in a public sense. If people believe the merger of Cadillac Fairview and Bramalea is going to produce a more viable company, not only in its assets here in Ontario and Canada but also on a world scale, then those individuals will invest accordingly.

I can only say that Bramalea, Cadillac Fairview and a number of the other developers that the leader of the third party would like some people to condemn in this House have contributed substantially to the wellbeing of the people of Ontario and Canada.

Mr. Cassidy: It obviously contributes to the wellbeing of the shareholders. Whether it contributes to the wellbeing of the people who need houses at prices they can afford is another question.

CANADA HOMES

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the minister of high-priced housing.

The head of Canada Homes came to the press

conference theatre in the Legislative Building yesterday, bowed to public pressure and agreed his company would honour the agreements it entered into last August with people who had bought homes in Markham and thought those homes were going to be taken away from them.

Mr. L. Leibel said in this building that from now on new homes built in the Metro area would sell for $100,000 plus and that a amily income of $50,000 minimum would be needed to carry such homes.

Is that the opinion of the minister as well, or will the minister say what steps the government is taking to ensure that this prediction, made by a builder who in the past has catered to the mass market, does not become a reality in the Metropolitan Toronto region?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, I suppose Mr. Leibel, who speaks for Canada Homes, was speaking in particular about his firm and the price range at which it might be deciding to build homes.

As I have said before, and I repeat, there are homes being offered in the market in this immediate jurisdiction, as well as in other parts of Ontario, that are reasonably priced and are in an affordable price range for virtually every income group.

2:40 p.m.

It is great to try to take one man's statement that relates to what his company is going to do and to tag it on all of the industry across Ontario. I have the opportunity as the Minister of Housing, as does the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Walker), to speak to people in the development industry, and they very clearly indicate that they will continue to try to satisfy what they believe is the market. They make it very clear that if they do not satisfy the market they will not be here.

Frankly, while one contractor might try to satisfy the $100,000 price range, there are others who will make units available to the market at a variety of prices, because that is where they will succeed, and not by trying to build exclusively for one price group.

Mr. Cassidy: Given the fact that Mr. Leibel appeared to be trying to find a way to take away the homes from people who contracted for them at $60,000 or $70,000 a few months ago so the homes could subsequently be sold at a much greater price to new purchasers, which he finally backed down on, will the Minister of Housing say what steps the government intends to take to ensure that other developers do not try to back out of agreements that they have made with people, to make new forms of speculative profit in the market at the expense of people who thought they had an affordable home?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: That was not the inference I took from Mr. Leibel's remarks, which I happened to read in the last edition of the local press. It was not his intention, and he said it very clearly, to take back property and try to resell it at a higher price. If I read the article correctly, he said very clearly it was a decision made by a national mortgage company that indicated these individuals who had taken a contract, if purchasing a home under the mortgage terms of today, would not qualify.

I am not trying to put words in Mr. Leibel's mouth or write his article, but I think the press indicated clearly that was not the intention of his company at all.

He did go on to make another point that I think is rather interesting and we should keep very clearly in mind. He said very cautiously that these individuals could find themselves in the same detrimental financial position in a two-or three-year period—I only draw the comparison, if I might be allowed to do so—that some people got into with the assisted home ownership program. If you will recall, Mr. Speaker, they got in back about four or five years ago at a lower interest rate, and today they are experiencing somewhat the same difficulties.

Frankly, the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations should be complimented on the negotiations and discussions with Canada Homes, as the minister has been able to satisfy those individuals who had been turned off by the mortgage company earlier in the week. I trust any further situations of a similar nature will be referred to the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations for their settling in a very satisfactory way indeed.

Mr. Roy: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: I want to ask the Minister of Housing about his commitment to housing in the province. Does he still feel the way as he did a few months ago, which was that the Ministry of Housing should be phased out? If so, what kind of confidence can the consumers of this province have towards him as the minister of a ministry which he says has no purpose and should be phased out?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: There again, Mr. Speaker, the member for Ottawa East would like to try to put his own interpretation on it. I said very

clearly during consideration of the estimates last year, and I repeat it, that the Ministry of Housing in its name alone sometimes drew an expectation in some communities beyond the delivering power of this government or of this government and the federal government combined.

The Premier in his wisdom announced very recently that there will be a new ministry of municipal affairs and housing, which collectively will try to resolve the problems of municipalities and, in conjunction with them, to satisfy the serviced land required for the development of the housing industry.

Mr. Cassidy: As I understand it, Mr. Speaker, the minister says that in the future, should there be an emergence of similar situations to that involving the people in Canada Homes, they should be taken to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

Will the minister say why he has such confidence in the desire of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations to deal with such problems, given the fact that he refused to take credit for the successful effort to get rights for those home owners? When he met with three of them yesterday, he said those home owners should thank the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) and New Democratic Party researcher Graham Murray and that they should vote NDP next time.

Mr. Speaker: A new question, Mr. Reed.

Mr. Cassidy: Let's have an answer, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, let me say that the positive results yesterday speak well for the minister and for the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations. The minister is to be congratulated, along with his staff, for being able to satisfy taxpayers of this province and bring them, we hope, to be happy Ontario home owners.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Mr. J. A. Reed: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier. I would like to ask the Premier whether he is prepared to support a resolution put forward by Ontario's 330 municipal electric utilities calling on Ontario to assign to conservation measures, resources equal to those given to additional electric generation. How can the Premier justify Ontario Hydro's conservation budget of $8 million out of a total operating budget in 1981 of $764 million?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think the answer to that is obvious even to the honourable member, who has been demoted to the second row of his party's benches. I miss him in the front row.

I have no difficulty in reconciling it whatsoever. I have heard from some of the member's colleagues that they take exception to Ontario Hydro's excellent public education program, through which they have been endeavouring to communicate to the people of this province the desirability of conservation. I have heard some of his colleagues say that Ontario Hydro should not be doing this.

I have even heard some contradictions with respect to the whole concept of conservation emanating from the Liberal Party of Ontario. You cannot equate what Ontario Hydro expends by way of public information and by its own internal programs on conservation with the necessity of operating that rather significant corporation, which provides for Ontario consumers the lowest competitive hydro rates anywhere in North America, with one or two modest exceptions.

Mr. J. A. Reed: I take it by that rather indirect answer that the Premier is not prepared to support the Ontario Municipal Electric Association's resolution.

I want to ask the Premier why, after five years, the government of Ontario has not yet come up with its memorandum of understanding with Ontario Hydro to define their respective roles and responsibilities? When will we get it?

Will the Premier assure us that he will require that Ontario Hydro provide the same amount of resources to conservation as it does to providing additional electric power supplies?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I can only say to the member that to suggest the government should direct Ontario Hydro to allocate exactly the same resources to conservation as it must of necessity to seeing that people in Brampton at least have sufficient electricity is totally incredible. The people in Georgetown or Halton Hills may not be worried about that; although, knowing a number of the member's constituents, I am sure they would be worried both about that and about their representation.

If the OMEA is suggesting that Ontario Hydro or the municipal utilities might do more with respect to conservation, I have no quarrel with that. But the member should look at some of the things his own members have said about Ontario Hydro's efforts to educate the public with respect to the desirability of conservation.

UREA-FORMALDEHYDE FOAM INSULATION

Mr. Swart: My question is to the Minister of Health and again concerns urea-formaldehyde foam insulation.

I sent the minister a letter signed by Mr. David Young of the Niagara Regional Health Unit, addressed to Mr. Paul Toderick of 765 Church Street, Fenwick, under date of May 11, 1981. This letter provides new information on the formaldehyde gas level in Mr. Toderick's home. Will the minister note that the tests are 200 times the Canadian recommended standard, as reported by the medical officer of health, and that the Todericks have been advised to leave their home?

Mr. Speaker, I also inform you that the Todericks, who are in the gallery here today, have suffered and are suffering seriously from headaches, insomnia, lethargy and nasal problems.

As the minister is responsible for health in this province and has known about these kinds of problems since 1979, what advice and help does he have to offer to the Todericks and hundreds of other people like them in this province?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, with respect, I am not sure on what the honourable member is basing the statement that we have known about this since 1979. I do not believe that is true.

The first time that I am aware this matter came to our attention was when the federal government decided to impose a temporary ban on the use of this product in December 1980. That information was conveyed, as I have told the member before, to the medical officers of health with some technical background about the product and an indication that if they required techncal assistance it was availabe to them through our Ministry of Labour.

2:50 p.m.

That was followed by the production of a report, of which I am sure the member has a copy, by an expert medical advisory committee, to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. That report, among other things, states that they do not believe they are in a position to recommend a safe level of exposure. The great difficulty in the report that has been prepared, and the way that the federal minister has so far handled it, is that it has left everybody hanging.

As the member knows, last week I asked the federal minister to indicate what she is going to do about two specific points raised in the report. First is the question of a survey in the country to determine the extent of the problem, and second is the recommendation that the federal government institute a program to assist in those cases where some form of retrofit is required.

I think it is quite properly the federal government's responsibility. I am hopeful that the combination of public pressure and pressure from the provincial governments will get them to accept their responsibility and to do something about it.

At this point, and we are checking regularly, we have not had anything more than an acknowledgement from Miss Bégin's office, and we will keep the pressure on them to get them to accept their responsibilities and to follow up on those recommendations.

In the meantime, the medical officers of health and the health units are available to consult with individuals about any particular concerns they have.

As the member knows, a medical officer of health has the authority already, under the Public Health Act, to close any premises that he or she sees fit to close—such an order, of course, being appealable to the Health Facilities Appeal Board—and to give whatever advice he or she deems appropriate.

At this point we are operating in a bit of a void because, in my view, the report that has come from the federal government has not been satisfactorily dealt with by the federal minister.

Mr. Swart: If the minister did not know about it in 1979, he should have. The medical officer of health in the Niagara region prepared a report at that time pointing out the dangers of this foam. As chief medical officer, the minister should have known.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: If the honourable member in making that statement is referring to part of a report he passed to me a week or so ago, that was a memo to file, not a memo to the Minister of Health or to the chief medical officer. It was not drawn to the attention of the Ministry of Health to my knowledge.

Mr. Swart: Why does the minister continue to take this buck-passing, hands-off attitude, when morally and legally he has responsibility for public health in this province?

Will he now commit himself to do three things? One, will he take steps to identify all homes in this province containing the foam

insulation? Two, will he have tests done on them at regular intervals by equipment that will show even a minimum of formaldehyde gas? Three, will he initiate steps to the federal government to finance removal of the foam wherever high gas levels are prevalent, as in the case I am talking about?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: With respect, it is not a question of buck-passing at all. The responsibility very clearly is on the shoulders of the level of government that approved the use of the product in the first place; that is number one.

Number two, I have made it clear in my communications to the federal minister that we do not have, in the provincial government or in the health units, or combined, all the resources necessary to carry out what has been recommended to her. But we will make all our resources in the government, and at the local level, available to the federal government to assist them in carrying out the responsibility that is very clearly on their shoulders.

Mr. Nixon: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: However culpable the government of Canada may be, will the minister not consider co-operating with his colleague the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Norton), particularly with the offices established on a regional level, so that he can say to those people who are concerned about their health and safety in regard to the gases that may or may not be coming from this improper insulation, that they can go in there at their initiative, and at our provincial cost, and perhaps rebill the federal government eventually?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh, come on.

Mr. Nixon: What is the matter with that? I say to the Minister of Education that most of this government's money comes from the federal government. What is she talking about? It certainly does, and this government does not mind spending it and taking the credit for it too.

To get back to the point: Why cannot the Minister of Health accept his responsibility to the medical officer of health? Though the medical officer of health does not have the facilities, the Minister of the Environment through his offices either does or should have and should have them available. He can help these people, rather than having some sort of a nonproductive political argument once a week about it.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I sympathize and I totally agree with the honourable member that the matter should not become the subject of a political argument, as he says. I would have hoped I could have had a response by now from a supposedly responsible federal minister to carry out the responsibilities that are incumbent upon her and are outlined in this report.

I point out to the member, by the way, if he wants to talk about money—and my friend the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) is more knowledgeable about this than I am—that 43 per cent of the money that Ottawa takes in and misuses in the main, comes from this province.

We are keeping pressure on them daily, and I hope we can bring this matter to a head in the next week at the most. I remind the honourable member again that if he looks at the report they are saying there may be a danger. That is the difficulty. They are not saying that at a specific level there is a danger. They have made recommendations to the federal minister to assist all the provinces and the territories to determine the extent of whatever danger there is, and then they specifically recommend that the federal government finance a program for any necessary retrofit.

RURAL ELECTRICITY RATES

Mr. Riddell: I have a question of the Minister of Energy, Mr. Speaker. Does he recall the Premier standing in his place last April, grandstanding to a gallery full of farmers and stating he would take every measure to see that the rural-urban hydro rate differential would be eliminated?

The minister should not shake his head in the negative, because it is a fact.

Now that Ontario Hydro has proposed an 8.6 per cent average increase in its 1982 wholesale power rate, can we expect Ontario Hydro to eliminate that rural-urban differential in hydro rates? If we can expect that, what method will be used to eliminate it?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, the government commitment was quite clearly enunciated here by the leader of the government that the differential would be reduced. That was the word that was used.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Look at the record. Even the honourable member can read it. The government took the first step with the $20-million grant to provide that and at that time indicated further steps would be taken. These are currently being studied to honour the government commitment to reduce that differential.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Welch: That statement was made before March 19. We went to the people of Ontario with that statement quite clearly articulated.

Mr. Riddell: Whether it is going to be reduced or eliminated, or whether the man on the minister's left, the man of broken promises, is going to start to fulfil some of his commitments, can the minister tell me—and just give me the plain facts—will the urban-rural rates be equalized, or are the rural rates merely to be reduced to 15 per cent above the urban rate, as Ontario Hydro has recommended in the report to the government of November 1980? Just give me the straight facts.

Hon. Mr. Welch: There are a number of options currently before us. The commitment to be reduced stands. When the decision has been taken with respect to the further steps, these will be announced in this place.

Mr. Riddell: There is no help for the farmers on interest rates and no help for them on hydro rates.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Wildman: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Will the minister agree that despite the grant from the provincial government to Ontario Hydro the differential has increased by a total of $4 million? If he agrees that is the case, can he give us a date as to when there will be an enunciation of exactly what the government policy is with regard to the differential and the elimination, not just the reduction of the differential?

Hon. Mr. Welch: The further steps that will be taken to honour the commitment will be announced in due course.

Mr. J. A. Reed: Mr. Speaker, proudly from the second row, I say to the Premier—

Mr. Watson: The member is sensitive about that.

Mr. J. A. Reed: At least I had the choice of where I sat. I wonder if some of his friends did or did not.

Mr. Speaker: Ask the question and do not be provocative.

3 p.m.

Mr. J. A. Reed: Does the Minister of Energy remember the quotation from the last provincial budget which said "eliminate the undue differential"?

Hon. Mr. Welch: We can have some exchange with respect to the vocabulary involved. I am sure the Treasurer meant those words to be consistent with what the leader of the government said, the reduction of the differential.

TRAVEL FUND

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. In view of the growth of direct selling by travel agency wholesalers that are not registered as retailers under the Travel Industry Act, what is the minister going to do to protect people whose claims to the travel industry compensation fund are denied because they booked with such wholesalers? How is a member of the public to tell the difference?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, with some encouragement from us this matter is going before the Commercial Registration Appeal Tribunal to decide just that question. By our reading of the act, we think the wholesaler question would be resolved by payment being made to the people who purchased directly from wholesalers, even though that is considered to be an inappropriate approach.

Mr. Mackenzie: I am not sure exactly what the minister has said. Since the registrar of the act has clearly stated he has never issued a warning to wholesalers not to sell to the tourist industry directly, are we now being told by the minister that these people will be recompensed for their losses?

Hon. Mr. Walker: I hope that will ultimately be the course taken. One must keep in mind what has transpired. There has been a collapse of a very significant firm. In spite of that collapse the travel fund, which was set up by my predecessor, came to the rescue of an awful lot of people. Only a small fraction of that number happens to fall into the category of having made their deals directly with a wholesaler. Of those who made deals directly with a wholesaler, a good many knew they were trying to get a special rate by going through the wholesaler rather than going to the normal retailer.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Having been an owner of a couple of travel agencies, I cannot agree with what the minister just said. In fact, a lot of people reading the advertisements and dealing even through registered travel agents did not understand they were dealing with a wholesaler rather than a retailer. In many cases, there is no difference in price. For instance, if one buys a ticket from Air Canada or through a travel agent, one pays the same price. There is no difference.

To ensure the good name of the travel industry in Ontario, and since he has indicated funds are available, will the minister not agree that a directive should go from the cabinet that these people be compensated?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, does the member think I am prepared to interfere with what I expect to be a decision by the Commercial Registration Appeal Tribunal? I am not prepared to do that.

HOOKER CHEMICALS DUMP

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. Is the minister aware of the statement made today at a press conference by Pollution Probe, Operation Clean and the Canadian Environmental Law Association indicating their intention of applying to the Honourable Judge John T. Curtin, US district court, to bring a motion to appear as amicus curiae, friend of the court, at US versus Hooker Chemicals et al, in civil action 79-989, relating to the Hyde Park Hooker Chemical dump, where one of the largest deposits of dioxin in the world has been deposited and there is grave concern about the security and guarantee of the site?

Will the minister consider similar action on behalf of the citizens of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, in response to the first part of that question, I am aware there was a press conference held this morning. It was my understandinghe groups the member referred to had indicated their intention to seek an opportunity to be present at the hearings as amicus curiae.

In terms of any action that I might be prepared to take, I believe it is still a little early at this particular point in time to determine that, because we are aware that an agreement apparently has been arrived at which is subject to ratification by the court in New York state. The contents of that agreement are not yet known to us in detail. I expect that by tomorrow I shall have received a copy of that, and the reason it is of particular importance is I understand the control mechanisms and the proposals with respect to the recovery of any leachate from that site are spelled out in that document.

Until such time as I have had an opportunity to assess that and the staff of the ministry has had an opportunity to assess that, it would be very difficult for me to say it was a situation in which it would be appropriate for intervention on the part of the province of Ontario.

I can assure the honourable member, as he may already be aware, that we have been monitoring that site, particularly in terms of the Niagara River, both through testing above and below the Hyde Park site and in the area around the water intake for Niagara-on-the-Lake. The testing that has been done up to this point has not shown any detectable presence of dioxins, and that is using the current techniques, which will detect it in parts per trillion. There has been none detected at the present time.

We continue to monitor it on that basis. However, in saying what I have said, I want also to make it clear that I have not precluded some further action depending upon the information that comes into our hands within the next day or so.

Mr. Kerrio: Does the minister not recognize the very grave danger that is abundantly clear to everyone that there is a great deposit of dioxin in a given site, and that so far there are minimal concentrations in Lake Ontario, and that it is not in the best interests of the people of Ontario to wait until that dioxin gets from the site where it is deposited to the lake? Does the minister not recognize that there is movement occurring now and that it is in the best interests of those people to see that the company is made more responsible?

The minister has seen fit to take action on acid rain. He has personally visited, diametrically opposite to the last minister, who would not go to the United States of America, and has protested what they are doing to our river. I am asking him now, will he take a personal interest and go himself?

Hon. Mr. Norton: First of all, the honourable member errs in suggesting that my predecessor at no time went to the United States on matters of common environmental concern. In fact, he did so on a number of occasions.

Mr. Kerrio: He was not representing Ontario, though.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Yes, he was representing Ontario—absolutely—and I am not aware of any other capacity in which he might have gone. I do not know who else he would be representing. It was in his capacity of Minister of the Environment that on a number of occasions he had meetings in the United States with the commissioner of the Environmental Conservation Commission in New York state.

Mr. Roy: Never mind that. Get on with the question.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I was responding to some references he made that I thought were both in error and unfair. I will continue to respond to those kinds ofnnuendoes since they relate to my predecessor, for whom I have great respect. He did an excellent job in this ministry.

To respond to the member's question: I recognize that if the evidence indicates the mobility of the leachate in the direction of the river, that presents a serious threat. But it is important that we be responsible in our assessment of what is happening and our assessment of what is being proposed.

I suggest to the member that unless he has access to documents from New York state, which I at this point do not, then he is whistling in the dark, because the information in terms of the technology or the technique that will be installed and put in place to control any leachate and try to deal with that potential threat, he really cannot make the kinds of statements he is making.

I will assess the information with the staff of my ministry as soon as it is available to me; I expect that to be by tomorrow. Of course I am not going to sit back in a situation where there may be risk to residents of this province. I have no intention of doing that. By the same token, I am not going to prejudge that information and go off half-cocked and suggest that I might intervene in a situation where intervention might not be necessary.

3:10 p.m.

PENSIONS

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Treasurer a question about the government's proposals for pension reform. Why has the Treasurer wasted no time in declaring his support for recommendation 35 of the Royal Commission on the Status of Pensions, that is to say, that there would be no increase in benefits under the Canada pension plan?

Why is it that he has been totally silent on the other major recommendation of the royal commission, recommendation 40, which reads in part: "The government of Ontario should institute by legislation a mandatory retirement savings plan for all workers in Ontario, which would be called the Provincial Universal Retirement System (PURS), to be based on an individual account money purchase design"?

Why has the Treasurer not stated his position on the PURS recommendation? Will he now state his position? Unless, of course, he is too embarrassed to endorse this essentially crackpot proposal.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, the comment the honourable member just made is an indication of his whole approach to the serious problem of pensions. We have had one of the most thorough studies ever made of the pension system in Canada, and it was made by representatives, as far as I can tell, of labour, of government and of the private operators. They have given us 163 recommendations over the whole field.

I certainly expressed my confidence in the private sector, and that would imply some confidence in that specific recommendation. I am not going to get into detail as to whether PURS is the way to upgrade the pensions for people not currently included in plans, but I do believe in general that the topping up of pension benefits above the old age security plus Canada pension is best done in the private sector and not by government.

Mr. McClellan: Surely the Treasurer will agree that the PURS proposal, which will take 47 years to reach maturity, will provide absolutely no specific benefits to individual subscribers. The only thing we know is that it will give profit to the vendor and that it is a mandatory plan that represents government intervention to expand and guarantee a market for the services of the private pension industry.

Surely the Treasurer is embarrassed by that proposal and is prepared today to say that it is not a pension-reform proposal acceptable to the government or to the people of this province.

Hon. F.S. Miller: No, I am not prepared to say that. I also believe you cannot simply wave a wand and increase benefits without being sure there is money to pay them.

Even the present Canada pension plan is totally underfunded. You cannot increase it by twice—which is the recommendation of a large number of people who favour only the Canada pension plan as the route to increased benefits—you cannot do it overnight or give benefits without any funds. There have been enough criticisms that the present benefit ratio is underfunded.

In fact, that plan tackles that problem and points out that we do not have enough money for benefits by the year 1985 or thereafter and suggests mechanisms to deal with it.

Mr. Peterson: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: I respect the fact there are a number of very basic issues that will be looked at in depth by the select committee this summer but, before that happens, why will the Treasurer not implement

some of the things that can be implemented now? I refer specifically to the child-bearing step-up provision, which the Haley commission in recommendation 32 suggests should be implemented immediately and without delay. It is an important point; it should be done now. Why not do that?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am not going to rule that out, Mr. Speaker. There may be a number of steps that can be taken before a select committee reports, but I sense there may be some difficulty in choosing those you want to act upon right away while saying a select committee should review the recommendations.

My staff at this time, in their review with me, have concluded that there are some things we can do on the private side, and we shall start doing them.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Education has an answer to a question previously asked.

FILM PRODUCTION COURSES

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I believe it was approximately 10 days ago that the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) asked a question regarding the film production program at Algonquin College.

As honourable members must know, the community colleges' role is to provide educational programs that meet the needs of the students but also provide the students with some very real access to employment opportunities. They regularly review the offerings which are made on the basis of the requirements for employment in the local community or the rest of the province.

The program on film production in French was reviewed by Algonquin College approximately a year and a half ago. The decision was taken as a result of the criteria that were used to examine that course along with a number of other courses, including all the programs provided in both English and French, to decide which programs should be maintained; these were enrolment, the rate of attrition in the course, the rate of placement after the course and the level of cost of the course.

There had been 72 students enrolled in the course at the beginning, and of these only 14 graduated. Apparently little attention was being paid by French-speaking students to this course, because there were few employment opportunities. Because of this and the fact that the attrition rate was so high, the board of Algonquin College determined that the course would be discontinued, and no new students were enrolled in the first year in 1980-81. In 1981-82, only the third year of the program will be offered.

The board recognizes that many Franco-Ontarian students are interested in pursuing careers in radio, television, photography and high technology in business. Therefore, those courses have been expanded.

The board also reviews the provision of courses regularly through an operating group of that college along with the co-ordinator of francophone educational affairs in the province. If there seems to be a sufficient number of French-speaking high school graduates in that area who apply for the course, the course will be reintroduced.

Mr. Cassidy: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Since I raised this question, will the minister be prepared to ensure that the film production program is reinstated if the advisory committee on film production coming from the industry, which was not consulted before the program was cancelled, can demonstrate, as I believe it can, that the statistics on which the minister's statement and the college's decision were made were in error, and that the overwhelming number of students in that program had successfully found jobs in the film industry? If those are the facts, will the minister ensure that the program is reinstated?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it will be the decision of the college to reinstate the program. I am sure that information will be available to the advisory committee.

MOTIONS

HOUSE SITTING

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that when the House adjourns on Friday, May 15, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19.

Motion agreed to.

3:20 p.m.

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE OBUDSMAN

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that the recommendations of the 1980 report of the select committee on the Ombudsman be referred to the committee of the whole House for clause by clause consideration.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Wells: The purpose of this is in order that when the House considers the report

of the Ombudsman this Thursday evening, we can do it in committee of the whole, recommendation by recommendation, rather than as a complete report.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

FIRE MARSHALS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry moved first reading of Bill 59, An Act to amend the Fire Marshals Act.

Motion agreed to.

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Philip moved first reading of Bill 60, An Act to amend the Residential Tenancies Act, 1979.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, this bill provides that a landlord shall pay annually, to the tenant, interest on the rent deposit at the rate of interest equal to the highest rate established from the most recent series of Canada savings bonds issued before the date of the rent deposit interest payment.

Mr. Speaker, I have several other amendments to the same act.

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Philip moved first reading of Bill 61, An Act to amend the Residential Tenancies Act, 1979.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to authorize the Residential Tenancy Commission to conduct an inquiry on its own motion to determine whether a tenant has paid an amount of rent in excess of the amount permitted under this act.

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Philip moved first reading of Bill 62, An Act to amend the Residential Tenancies Act, 1979.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to authorize the Residential Tenancy Commission to order payment of tenant's costs where the commission has determined that the tenant paid rent in excess of the amount permitted under the act.

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Philip moves first reading of Bill 63, An Act to amend the Residential Tenancies Act, 1979.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to provide a procedure for the Residential Tenancy Commission to review a rent increase allowed by the commission for the purpose of financing major repairs by a landlord. If the commission determines that a landlord has not carried out the repairs or that the cost of repairs is less than the cost forecast by the landlord, the commission may order a reduction of the rent increase.

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Philip moves first reading of Bill 64, An Act to amend the Residential Tenancies Act, 1979.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to require a landlord who obtains vacant possession of a rental unit for the purpose of making repairs or renovations to the unit to apply to the Residential Tenancy Commission for an order determining the rent that may be charged for the repaired or renovated unit.

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Philip moves first reading of Bill 65, An Act to amend the Residential Tenancies Act, 1979.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to require a landlord, upon request of the tenant, to file receipts for expenditures made by the landlord with the Residential Tenancy Commission.

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Philip moves first reading of Bill 66, An Act to amend the Residential Tenancies Act, 1979.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to make several amendments in part IX of the act governing the procedure of the Residential Tenancy Commission. These are clearly explained in the bill.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I wanted to compliment the Speaker and the mover of all those motions on the enunciation. I heard "Johnston" slip to "Johnson" only twice throughout. I am sure the record will show that it was the member for Scarborough West who was the seconder of those bills. Excellent work.

Mr. Speaker: The record shall so indicate.

ANSWER TO QUESTION
ON NOTICE PAPER

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day, I wish to table the answer to question 4 standing on the Notice Paper. (See Hansard for Friday, May 15.)

TIME FOR WINDUP
SPEECHES

Hon. Mr. Wells: Also, Mr. Speaker, I want to inform you and the House that it has been agreed by the parties that for this evening, starting at eight o'clock, for the windup of the throne speech debate, the time will be equally split among the three speakers. With your concurrence we would like to ask the table officers to keep track of the time tonight.

3.30 p.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE
(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Barlow: Mr. Speaker, as one of the new members of this distinguished Legislature, representing the riding of Cambridge, it is an honour and a privilege for me to address this assembly. As past president of Heritage Cambridge and a past director of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, I am particularly proud to be giving my first speech in the chamber of this grand old pink limestone building, steeped in the long history of tradition and democratic practices.

Living in a house built in 1854, I am particularly charmed by this magnificent building. As a brief aside, in 1880 the provincial members of parliament voted some $500,000, which was a considerable sum in those days, for a new building on the Queen's Park site. It was then occupied by a lunatic asylum—and, of course, it could be said that it still is—but this did not bother the government which had previously occupied a jail site. The Hospital for the Insane was torn down in 1886 when construction began on the new parliament. The official opening of this parliament building was on April 4, 1893.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, may I join my colleagues in congratulating you on your appointment. If I may add, Cambridge has been fortunate to have had most recently the Honourable Allan Edward Reuter and then, back in the 1930s, the Honourable Norman Otto Hipel to serve this most distinguished post. Coincidence has it that Mr. Reuter is currently living in the same house that was once occupied by Mr. Hipel.

Mr. Sargent: They were both great Speakers and better than we have today.

Mr. Barlow: They were great Speakers. One was misguided, but the other was a good Tory.

Second, I would like to extend my appreciation to my constituents who had confidence in my ability to represent them in this Legislature. Cambridge has traditionally been a Conservative stronghold, and I am pleased that the people of this great riding chose to return to the government party after the last five years of NDP representation.

I am proud to be part of this government and am in full support of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development proposal. The BILD program reaffirms our commitment to the economic and social programs of all our people in Ontario. It is a sound, economic package that is capable of addressing our economic shortcomings and stimulating our economic growth rate. The measures contained in this program will promote strong, dynamic expansion in many sectors of the economy. I am convinced that my riding of Cambridge, and indeed all Ontarians, will greatly benefit from the BILD initiatives.

Cambridge was formed on January 1, 1973, amalgamating the municipalities of Galt, Preston, Hespeler and also parts of the townships of Waterloo and North Dumfries. Located on Highway 401, half way between London and Toronto, my riding has an unusual mix of rural and urban atmospheres. The active farming community, geographically comprising more than 50 per cent of the riding, is situated predominantly in the township of North Dumfries. With such a large section of the riding under agricultural use, I am greatly concerned with the growth in this sector. I wholeheartedly support both the government's initiatives in

strengthening the agriculture base of the province and the excellent advisory services this government provides for the farmers.

Last Monday I accepted the invitation of the Ontario Milk Marketing Board region of Waterloo milk committee to attend its meeting. The topics on the agenda included current developments in matters of concern to the dairy industry and farming in general. Developments in the dairy industry and the impact of these developments on both producers and consumers were also discussed. I intend to maintain this active rapport with the farming community and to meet with the various rural groups and committees to assist them in any way possible.

My riding of Cambridge is also a highly industrialized urban centre. Industries range from textiles and shoes to high-technology firms which supply the electronic and nuclear industries. It is apparent that business and industry in my riding, as well as throughout the province, is rapidly moving into a new technological era. This government, through BILD, is providing the incentive for an aggressive research and development program so that Ontario industries can compete more effectively in an increasingly competitive environment.

To achieve steady economic growth and to ensure international competitiveness, the government's goals are to promote research and development, nurture high technology and expand markets for Ontario's products. Over the next five years, $300 million will be allocated to initiatives to improve our technological capacity.

The application of microelectronics technology is essential to maximize Ontario's economic potential. This new technology is revolutionizing telecommunications, data communications, product design and production control. A microelectronics development centre has been proposed by this government to ensure a steady and adequate flow of advanced technology to industry and to explore product design application. Currently, the government is studying two suitable locations, Ottawa and Cambridge. I would like to take this opportunity to point out to the honourable members the advantages of establishing this centre in Cambridge.

The purpose of the microelectronics development centre is to ensure the transfer of advanced technology to industry, particularly to smaller manufacturers. Ottawa has giants in the microelectronics industry. Companies such as Northern Electric, Northern Telecom, Mitel Corporation, Gandalf Data Communications and Norpak are richly endowed with microelectronics technology. These companies have the potential and resources to launch their own research programs. However, smaller high-technology firms do not have the same resources at their disposal to launch the necessary research initiatives in order to remain competitive.

The central location of Cambridge in the industrial heartland of the province, the high-technology base at the University of Waterloo and the presence of small high-technology firms in the region are key factors which necessitate the establishment of the microelectronics development centre in Cambridge. As I have said, Cambridge is strategically located on Highway 401 within the Toronto-Windsor corridor in the industrial heartland of the province. The bulk of the province's businesses and industries lie within this corridor. Access to all modes of transportation and proximity to major industrial centres in Ontario and the United States make Cambridge an ideal location for the research centre.

In the region there are numerous high-technology industries which have the necessary base and capacity to absorb microelectronics technology. Included in this list of companies are Com Dev, which specializes in satellite communications; 3L Filters, which is concerned with specialized water filtration treatment; Strite Industries, which is involved in high precision manufacturing; Reuter-Stokes, specializing in nuclear instrumentation, as well as Space Circuits and Raytheon in the Kitchener-Waterloo area. These companies are only a few of the numerous small to medium-sized high technology firms in the Cambridge-Kitchener-Waterloo -Guelph triangle.

The high technology base at the University of Waterloo, only 20 minutes from Cambridge, will be a great asset to the microelectronics development centre. The University of Waterloo is extensively involved in the application of microelectronics research. There is a heavy commitment to computer and microelectronics research and its application as well as a firm commitment to engineering, mathematics and computer science.

The large body of expertise at the University of Waterloo knows and understands the needs and applications of the microelectronics sector. Microelectronics and microcomputer technology have developed at Waterloo University to a point where the available expertise will have a significant impact on Canadian business and industries. For example, the university has played

a major role in the development of spinoff companies and in the development of new products incorporating microelectronics. It is a fact that technology in the field of computer and microelectronics is dynamic.

The research program at Waterloo is committed to staying abreast of this rapidly expanding and changing technology. As well, the University of Waterloo has acquired an international reputation in the software field. This expertise in developing computer programs is essential in the development of microelectronics technology.

3:40 p.m.

Another critical factor is access to personnel. The proximity of the University of Waterloo to Conestoga College, Mohawk College, the University of Guelph and Wilfrid Laurier University will provide researchers and staff for the microelectronics development centre. Staff and researchers are available in the region for future industrial expansion

The government has also proposed the establishment of a separate computer-aided design/computer-aided manufacturing, called CAD/CAM, a developing and testing facility to assist manufacturers on a fee-for-service basis to develop, design and install CAD/CAM and robotic equipment.

CAD/CAM is an important application of microelectronics technology. Since robotics, microelectronics and auto parts technologies are closely related, the location of the CAD/CAM centre should be near the microelectronics development centre in or near Cambridge. I would like to impress upon the government the urgency of a quick response to the decision regarding the placement of the microelectronics development centre. The sooner we can establish a centre, the sooner we can begin to employ our most qualified graduates, launch necessary training programs and reap the benefits of microelectronics technology.

In addition to the government's commitment to high-technology research and development, the government is preparing Ontario for the transition to an economic system in the 1980s, based increasingly on electrical power and nuclear technology. This transition will provide greater security for Ontario's economic future by substituting an indigenous energy source for petroleum. It will keep Ontario in the forefront of electrical power technology.

The government has proposed a 20-year electrical generation program. This program will include initiatives to direct Ontario Hydro to accelerate the completion of the Darlington nuclear generating station and a combined province-Hydro review of additional nuclear generation, along with hydraulic and other means of reducing the use of coal. Also, the government is committed to providing facilities for the sale of steam, hot water and electricity from the Bruce nuclear power development to industrial and agricultural interests.

These initiatives will have a significant impact on all the people of Ontario. Greater self-sufficiency in energy will help to insulate Ontario from the debilitating effects of worldwide oil inflation. Jobs and incomes will be created in the manufacture and installation of electrical equipment.

My riding of Cambridge will greatly benefit from BILD initiative to generate more use of electrical power and nuclear technology. Babcock and Wilcox Canada Limited, the largest steam-generating equipment manufacturer in the country, is located in Cambridge. A leader in boiler manufacturing and a major force in the nuclear steam-generating field, Babcock and Wilcox is Cambridge's leading employer, pouring over $200 million in payroll annually into the city's economy.

Currently employing 1,600 people, it is estimated that one in 12 working households in Cambridge has someone working at Babcock and Wilcox. In 1979, employment was around 1,350. Since that time, employment has increased because of the nuclear steam generator recovery program. This program called for the redesign and rebuilding of the steam generator for Ontario Hydro's Pickering B station, redesign of steam generators for Ontario Hydro's Bruce B station and the redesign and rebuilding of steam generators for Hydro Quebec and Atomic Energy of Canada Limited. The Pickering and Bruce work is currently being performed in Cambridge.

However, as these projects wind down, Babcock and Wilcox expect to maintain employment at or above the 1,600-mark in Cambridge. This is due to a number of new domestic and international fossil fuels contracts, signed in 1980 and 1981, and to new contracts on nuclear steam generators for Ontario Hydro's Darlington generating system.

Clearly this government's initiatives in stimulating more use of electrical power and nuclear technology have a significant impact on Babcock and Wilcox and the residents of Cambridge. The company has recently expanded its operations to accommodate the new demand for electrical and nuclear generating equipment.

Initiatives in the transportation sector will also have a significant impact on the economy of our province. In this sector the government's role is to provide for the development and adoption of transportation systems which will conserve energy by reducing oil consumption and build on the demonstrated effectiveness of Ontario's transportation technology.

It is the belief of this government that the transportation sector is not only an important piece of Ontario's economic fabric, but it provides a major opportunity to reduce Ontario's dependence on the increasingly scarce and costly petroleum fuels. In order to continue its record of achievement in the transportation field, the government of Ontario plans new initiatives amounting to $40 million over the next five years. Cambridge, with its location on Highway 401, will certainly benefit from any government initiatives in improving the transportation network.

Financial incentives to encourage a transition to new and more abundant motor fuels and a long-term program of radial road improvements will have a significant impact on Cambridge. Similarly, the government's allocation of $125 million for systematic improvements on the Toronto-Windsor rail corridor, as well as initiatives to improve rail service and developent of Ontario-based technology, will greatly benefit my region. I need not point out the long-term stimulus these projects will have on the construction industry and the affiliated supply industries. The proposed rail improvements alone will create jobs in construction, primary and fabricated metals, electrical machinery and concrete products.

Before concluding my remarks on transportation, I would like to comment on the recommendations of the task force on provincial rail policy. The task force has recommended that current limits on the GO Transit operation territory should be within a line linking Burlington, Milton, Georgetown, Newmarket, Stouffville, Claremont, Brock Road and Pickering. However, the task force recognized that other factors may indicate the need for extension of a particular service to a specific community.

At the same time, the task force is convinced that rail commuter services are going to be increasingly important in the future, not just for the Metropolitan Toronto area but in other large centres in Ontario. For this reason, the task force recommended that the province should encourage our large municipalities to retain the option of providing commuter transit services by rail if rights of way, station and other facilities now exist.

I strongly believe that the strategic location of Cambridge, as well as the existence of track, signalling equipment and a station with ample parking facilities, warrants the extension of a commuter system between Toronto and Cambridge in the foreseeable future. Traditionally, the major railways through Cambridge were built as primary east-west affairs, linking Hamilton and Toronto with London and Windsor. The other major railways serving this area included, at one time, the Grand River Railway and the Lake Erie and Northern Railway.

The Grand River Railway and the Lake Erie and Northern were completed in 1916 as a combined north-south feeder link for local traffic, the Grand River Railway between Kitchener and Galt and the LE and N between Galt, Brantford and Port Dover. I well remember taking the LE and N down to Port Dover for a weekend of fun and frolic in days gone by.

This route was unique in that it was an electric line, a much advanced step over the steam locomotives then in common use. Now owned and operated by the CPR, the line continues in operation between Kitchener and Brantford. After 1955, it carried freight only, offering no passenger service.

The advent of cars and trucks and an excellent road network has diverted the majority of railroad traffic to the highways. As a result, miles of branch line tracks have been relegated to disuse, with passenger train service provided only on the Canadian National's Kitchener, Guelph and Brantford intercity routes, leaving Cambridge, as I have said, with no rail passenger service.

3:50 p.m.

The task force has noted that rail lines have been abandoned and passenger and freight services discontinued with depressing regularity during the last 25 years throughout the province. Ontario's branch line rail system has dwindled to the point that further abandonments should be avoided. These abandonments have serious implications. The task force argues that no rail line should be abandoned without study of its local impact and its role within the provincial network. Once a rail right of way has been abandoned and given over to other land uses, it can never be recovered should the need arise for such a linear corridor.

In the future, however, our railways will play a more significant role in Ontario's transporta-

tion network. With the possible shortages and increasing price of oil and gasoline supplies, trains remain one of the most cost-efficient forms of transportation. Passenger travel on the intercity lines is making a comeback. Dormant branch lines, such as the route to Nanticoke, may be upgraded to handle increased industrial traffic. Increasingly, Cambridge is becoming a bedroom community of Toronto. The high cost of property and housing as well as high interest and mortgage rates are forcing people to relocate outside the Metropolitan Toronto area. If current trends continue, an efficient passenger rail service between Toronto and Cambridge will be essential.

Cambridge, with a population of approximately 75,000, is the only community of its size in Canada that does not have rail passenger service. As a rapidly growing urban centre housing businesses, financial institutions and industries that require access to Toronto, it is imperative that an adequate rail service be established between Toronto and Cambridge.

Bus service is inadequate. Morning commuters must go to Highway 401 to be picked up for Toronto. The bottlenecks and congestion on Highway 401 and the increasing cost of gasoline are also making car transportation impractical. A passenger rail service through Cambridge would be the most direct line between London and Toronto. A group of concerned Cambridge citizens is at present investigating the feasibility of a passenger rail service between Toronto and Cambridge. I will strongly support and push for the establishment of such a facility and assist this group in any way possible.

In concluding, I believe Ontario has a great future. I urge all the members to endorse the proposals of the throne speech and the initiatives of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development as a comprehensive and sound package for stimulating economic growth in Ontario. I am proud of being part of this government and I am particularly honoure an privileged to serve as chairman of the standing committee on general government. I look forward to reporting to the assembly in this capacity from time to time.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin my comments today by congratulating you on your recent election to the important position of Speaker of this House. The task before you is one that demands great sensitivity and fair-mindedness, both of which are traits that you have already shown. However, your job cannot be done unless you receive co-operation from both sides of the House. Only then will you be able consistently to make objective rulings which will be perceived by all members to be fair and just. All of us in this House look to you to protect our rights and, by doing so, to protect the rights of the people of this province. I wish you good luck and much patience in the time ahead.

We have just completed a gruelling winter election campaign. Before commenting further on the campaign itself, I would like to formally congratulate my opponents in Waterloo North for waging fair and clean campaigns. Contrary to popular notion, it is possible to do election battle without mudslinging or personal attacks. It is only unfortunate that the same cannot be said for all those who sought election this year.

As for the government itself, instead of a campaign based on a discussion of the issues, as I perhaps naively expected, it subjected us instead to a cynically called winter election, favouring the party with the most money and allowing it to run the least substantial campaign and, in the process, hypnotize the voters into supporting the government. When an election to determine the fate of the province for the next five ears is simply dominated by a catchy jingle, repeated ad nauseam on radio and television, I believe we have reached a sorry state in the political process.

The irony is that the trick worked. We now sit facing a government smugly aware of its power, but remarkably indifferent to the fact that over 40 per cent of the voting public in Ontario did not exercise its franchise and in fact only 44 per cent of those who did vote supported the government. The vast majority of the people of this province are not satisfied with the performance of this government. I give the government fair warning that people will not allow them not to keep the promise. Elections are not always won by jingles alone.

What were some of the issues that the government managed to ignore during the campaign? Well, the list is endless. There is Re-Mor and the obvious incompetence of the government in dealing with this situation. There is the total lack of an industrial strategy for Ontario. There is the reality of skilled tradesmen being allowed into our province, while our own young people go begging for jobs. There is the fact that Ontario is tenth and last among Canadian provinces with respect to the growth of our economy. There is the absolute lack of assistance to the farmers in this province facing bankruptcy. The list simply goes on and on.

Not only did the Premier (Mr. Davis) ignore these issues on the hustings, but he managed to avoid a televised debate with the other party leaders to discuss these matters. Who can blame the voters for becoming disenchanted with their government?

We can cite the senior citizens property tax grant and the incompetence of the government of Ontario to administer it. We can cite the many cases where senior citizens sent in applications and had to wait months—sometimes up to six months—before they finally received their cheques. Yet last spring the government had the gall to advertise that all would be completed by the end of October 1980.

I want to cite a few of those examples of incompetence on the part of the government. I want to cite a case that came to our attention in January.

Mr. J. A. Reed: There is not enough time.

Mr. Epp: My colleague says I don't have enough time to cite all the cases. I agree with him since we can only go to six o'clock. I don't intend to take up all that time, but I will cite three examples.

This is an example of a gentleman who is 80 years old who lives in my riding in the city of Waterloo. His wife Mabel died in February 1980, over a year ago. The property and sales tax grants were issued in her name long after she had passed away, even though the government was aware of her death. His accountant returned the cheque to the ministry with a letter of explanation. The ministry had no record of this, but the accountant had documented everything. This same gentleman, whom we will call Charles, had to sign a bond of indemnity saying he had never received his cheques. On February 12, 1981, a cheque was received, but it was again issued in her name. We had to call the ministry again and, finally, the cheque was issued and sent to my office and we delivered it.

This is another case. We will call this person Kurt. He called in February of this year and said he had not received his property or sales tax grants. His address was listed by the Ministry of Revenue as being in West Germany and, therefore, they considered him ineligible. This person had not been to West Germany for over a year. My office called and corrected the address and was told that the new cheque would be issued immediately. The cheque was sent to West Germany again. We found that out after about three weeks and had to correct it again. Finally the cheque was issued and sent to my office and we delivered it.

The third case is particularly tragic. This gentleman, whom we will call Clifford, lived in Waterloo. We received a call from his wife in January 1981, saying that the property tax grant had not been received and that the gentleman was ill and would probably pass away within a few days. They wanted the cheque before it became a problem for the estate. The Ministry of Revenue promised to check into the situation and find out the reason for the delay. The gentleman passed away about two days later. About four or five days later, we got the cheque issued in his name and, therefore, the estate had to deal with it.

4 p.m.

I am citing just a few of the tragic examples. I do not for a moment think those are the most tragic ones. There are probably 124 times as many cases as we had in my riding of Waterloo North. That is not to mention the fact many needy people have now been deprived of additional funds while some people with substantial means receive extra government assistance. Furthermore, this new program costs close to $3 million more to administer than the former program.

I would like to spend some time discussing the need to improve facilities and opportunities for the disabled in our province. This year, 1981, has been declared by the United Nations as the International Year of Disabled Persons. We are certainly aware of the many private and public bodies which have improved their facilities for the disabled in the past few years, opening the doors of employment to many previously denied equal opportunity. However, a great deal more must be done. It is important to say that what we may be fighting is more a problem of attitude and ignorance than anything else.

A recent federal government task force alerted us to the fact there are over 800,000 disabled people in Ontario alone. Yet every victory for improvement and understanding is not easily gained. Let me give a specific example. I recall an incident that happened in 1973 in the city of Waterloo. The city was building a senior citizens' centre which was planned primarily for the use of seniors, but was also available to the community at large. The land cost $100,000 and the building cost in the neighbourhood of $300,000 or $400,000.

As one of eight aldermen, I raised the issue of an elevator for the two-storey structure and was voted down seven to one. Needless to say, I was dumfounded, since I felt there was a clear need for an elevator so that easy access could be had

to the second floor by all interested citizens. Rather than give up, I persevered but, finally, had to settle for the inclusion of an elevator shaft with the elevator to come later. When I became mayor in 1975, the installation of an elevator became one of my priorities and one was installed later in the year. The surprising aspect, and the reason I cite this incident, is that it was not 50 years ago but only about seven short years ago.

There are many facilities which need to be improved. Along with that, there must be recognition that the disabled have as much right to enjoy life and use our public facilities as do the nonhandicapped. Often it costs only a few cents per capita to make the necessary changes. Let me read from an excellent editorial in the PeterboroughExaminer dated March 28, 1981.

"As city council comes again next week to consider opening city hall up to handicapped citizens by installing an elevator, it may well be time for all citizens to consider what contribution the city ought to make to this International Year of the Handicapped.

"Is a $125,000-elevator, paid for out of public funds, too generous a monument to the principle that all citizens are equal citizens, whatever tricks nature or fate has played on them?

"We don't think it is. As one handicapped woman wrote us recently, the contribution would be no more than a couple of dollars a head for the capital cost. The cost of servicing a loan might amount to 35 cents per head per year. Those are small sums to pay for a humane and civilized act to grant full citizenship to persons whose disabilities make it impossible for them to use their city hall because they can't navigate its stairs.

"The purpose of the International Year of the Handicapped is to make citizens aware of the difficulties their handicapped fellows have in living a normal life. It is important to understand it is not charity that is being asked or even sympathy. What is asked is recognition that handicapped people can take their places in the community as productive contributors if the community, using its economies of scale, would simply broaden institutions and practices to admit handicapped people to them. It is the kind of thing being done daily throughout the world, led by unhandicapped and handicapped people convinced of the justice and practicality of overcoming handicaps.

"Engineers have developed telephones for the deaf that write messages. Television broadcasters have developed systems for transmitting readable dialogue to deaf watchers without troubling others. Ramps are being put in shopping centres, cinemas, libraries, museums and other places to accommodate wheelchairs. Public telephones are being designed with dials that can be reached from wheelchairs without strain. Mechanical engineers and computer specialists are designing new and better artificial limbs and more efficient ways of getting patients comfortable with them. The list is long and it spells out a moving story about thoughtful people who believe life can be lived fruitfully by persons deprived of physical freedoms the rest of us take for granted.

"There is, however, a great deal more that needs doing. There are prejudices to overcome and they are not lightly overcome. They exist in the work place; the competence of handicapped people is too often being prejudged, before they are given a try at the job. There is still widespread public difficulty about how to 'relate' to handicapped people: it amounts almost to fear and it compounds—unnecessarily—the difficulties of bearing a physical handicap.

"The cure for prejudice is contact. Provide handicapped citizens the means to get about more, to circulate better socially, to mingle with the ordinary citizen at public events, and knowl edge will take the place of prejudice. Barriers will crumble. Handicaps will be seen for what they are—not barriers to normal life on their own but only by virtue of society's attitudes. Then the waste—of human potential, of social services that need not be provided if handicapped people are allowed to be independent—will be seen in its awful magnitude. And ended.

"Surely a city as big and as generous as Peterborough can afford to join the movement and open up its city hall—the head and heart of the community—to handicapped citizens. It would be not only a service but a gesture to the truth of one essential fact of life: Nature has handicapped us all. It is how we overcome our handicaps that measures the worth of our time here."

I am sure members will agree that the Peterborough Examiner articulated the views of its citizens very well. I am aware of the $12 million that the provincial government has allocated for various programs in Ontario. But did it have to take all these years for the government to recognize its responsibilities? Did it have to take the United Nations resolution to draw its attention to the problem?

When we enter this chamber, in the lobbies behind us we notice that finally this year, 1981,

the government has built some ramps to make it easier for the disabled to enter the west and east visitors galleries. That is about 90 years after the building was first constructed. I would hope that if more money is needed, and it will be, this government will restructure its priorities and give less money to the wealthy pulp and paper companies and more to our 800,000 disabled in Ontario.

I represent a riding which is indeed blessed, one that boasts two universities. I appreciate the fine comments that the member for Cambridge (Mr. Barlow) made only a few minutes ago. I hope that the program he discussed here, the microelectronics development centre, comes to Waterloo because they will not even have to use all the energy to travel from Cambridge to use the facilities of Waterloo. They can locate that almost in my backyard and have it right on the university campus, the north campus which is just waiting for a development centre of that nature. Time will tell how that goes.

Waterloo boasts two universities, six insurance company head offices, a distillery, a brewery—and I am waiting for a winery to locate there—a few large industries and dozens of small businesses. Small businesses are of particular interest to me because they are the backbone of our economy. They are more flexible and, therefore, adapt quickly to change in the market. They are labour-intensive and create new jobs more quickly and cheaply than do capital-intensive businesses. While government policy has done much to assist medium and large corporations through the use of tax incentives, write-offs, credits and deferrals, little has been done to aid small business.

4:10 p.m.

A study by the federal small business secretariat shows that despite a nominal corporate tax rate of 46 per cent, large corporations on average actually pay taxes close to or below the 25 pe cent preferential tax rate accorded small businesses. Officials in the secretariat state that the effective tax rate of the smallest companies is actually about 23 per cent, while the effective tax rate of the largest corporations is actually closer to 20 per cent. So, in actual fact, small businesses do not get the same benefits as the larger industries do, while the latter also have easier access to the large sources of money.

Among the threats to the viability of small businesses in Ontario, the most important are a lack of managerial and entrepreneurial expertise; a shortage of capital, which restricts both the startup and expansion of small business; and tax policies, including the present system of payroll taxes, which imposes a heavy burden on small businesses. There are no compensating public policies to offset this drain on profits, which restricts capital formation and, therefore, the ability to finance growth.

The Davis government remains committed to encouraging large foreign-controlled multinationals to locate in Ontario. Last spring it published a booklet called The Profit Centre, designed to attract big foreign companies to Ontario. The present government spent $138,750 printing 15,000 copies of this booklet, at $9.25 each, to give away to prospective takers around the world. The document is now into its second printing.

Last fall the same government spent another $170,000 on 2,500 copies of a glossy booklet bound in plexiglass called Fact Books—Why and How to Set Up Business in Ontario, Canada. Obviously, though they put in Canada, they were not expecting to market that particular booklet or distribute it in Canada. That amounts to $31.76 each for more material designed to sell Ontario to any and all foreign bidders.

In 1979 and 1980, the Davis government committed $325 million through the employment development fund to assist large corporations, most of which are very prosperous, to do even better. By comparison, small business received direct assistance of only $4 million in 1979 through the small business development corporation program, and the government has alloted them no more than $10 million in 1980. The priority of this government is clear.

In November 1980, the Ontario government announced that the employment development fund was being replaced by a new body, called the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, otherwise known as BILD. It appears that BILD is simply the EDF with a new name and less money. In 1980-81, the Ministry of Industry and Tourism, which is charged with the support of small business, allocated five per cent of its budget and six per cent of its staff directly to this purpose through the small business unit of the ministry. To add insult to injury, the spending estimates of the small business unit have actually decreased this year.

This government has steadfastly refused to institute any government procurement policies to favour small business, either directly or through subcontracting provisions, even though the significant beneficial effects of such policies have been documented in the United States and elsewhere.

Specifically, as far as we are concerned, an industrial strategy for Ontario proposes: First, a procurement policy which requires the government of Ontario to undertake its purchasing, wherever possible and reasonable, from Canadian-controlled firms or from foreign-controlled firms which comply with our code of corporate behaviour; second, new arrangements to encourage individuals to invest in Canadian businesses; third, new incentives for research and development, including special assistance in the form of a cash rebate for Canadian-controlled small businesses; fourth, entrepreneurial advisory services and educational programs for small businessmen; fifth, an improved apprenticeship program; and, sixth, a special program to assist Canadian-owned auto parts manufacturers by providing loans at subsidized rates for capital expansion and development.

Last, but not least, I want to put in an appeal for assistance for the farmers. Many have laboured long and hard to be able to build up some sort of equity in their farms, particularly in the beef and hog businesses, and now they are losing them at a record rate. This is largely due to the insensitive and inhumane attitde of this government. I implore the governmentto take up the challenge, live up o the mandate it received on March 19 and help the farmers, the small businesses, the disabled and all the others who look to the govrnment for courage and leadership and not craftiness or rhetoric.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to rise again in this new parliament as the member for Riverdale and participate in the throne debate. I am honoured to represent the area which has been good enough to return me on a number of occasions to the assembly. I feel, as other members have expressed it, a certain sense of humility about the obligation which is imposed on one to represent the particular constituency that has sent one to this assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate you on your appointment to the chair of the assembly. Many have spoken about it. I have confidence that you will, in a dispassionate, objective good-humoured way, make certain that we adhere to the rules of the House. That is what we all want to do. So much of the procedures of the House are involved in the substance of what we do that a knowledge of the rules is almost imperative for an effective assembly. I know that you, sir, in your own judicious way will make certain that we will maintain that even-handed objectivity which is an essential ingredient of civilized debate in the assembly.

I do, however, want to dissociate myself from the decision which was made when I was away in the early days of the assembly, namely, your habit of calling members by their surnames rather than by the constituency they represent. I do not in any sense stand here as a person wedded to tradition, nor do I have any particular concern about changing traditions which no longer serve any useful purpose. But it does seem to me very clear that we are not here in our individual capacities.

We are here as members of the provincial parliament or, more accurately, as members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario by virtue of being the member for the particular riding we represent. So I intend, sir, to adhere to the tradition as I understand it because I think it speaks to the very nature of the parliamentary representative system. That is why the move to a colloquial method of address in this assembly is one I do not support.

I want to pay tribute to the 10 fine members of my party who were not re-elected. The othe two members who are no longer here chose to resign. The House is he loser by the departure of those members. Each of them contributed an essential part to the life of this assembly and worked with extreme diligence. However, inthe fortunes of politics they were defeated in the last election.

That is in no way to comment about the new members, whom I hasten to welcome to the assembly, particularly those who in the course of an election won their seats from members of the opposition. Change seems to be a necessary ingredient for the rejuvenation of the assembly. I naturally regret that the new faces are not on this side; we could have used from 12 to 30 more members in this caucus. It is interesting that this party has the opportunity of gaining more in the next election than either of the other two parties. I look forward to that particular challenge.

Let there be no mistake. I do not like to lose; our party does not like to lose. But, if I may paraphrase Casey Stengel, "If I've got to lose, I would rather lose with the NDP." That is my position. We will be here to fight the government, to distinguish our positions from those of the government and the opposition throughout the next four years until we have an opportunity to redeem our fortunes at the polls. When that time comes there will be a significant resurgence of support for the New Democratic Party.

4:20 p.m.

There are a number of things I want to talk about, but the time is short today as this debate moves on to its close. I will have an opportunity in the budget debate to speak more specifically about matters of concern to me in my riding of Riverdale. I am not even going to take up the time of the House on this occasion to put my case for the GO station at DeGrassi and Queen Streets in the Riverdale riding. I am going to save that for some more appropriate occasion.

I want to move very quickly on to that elusive thing of talking about the future. I want to get some sense of where we are at. There were three major things which struck me coming out of the election. We all have our impressions and conjectures about it, and these are only impressions and only conjectures, but they puzzle me. They are a part of the puzzle we are going to have to live with for a long period of time while they get sorted out.

It has been said that victory perhaps permits gestures that defeat does not allow. I could not help but be struck by the fact that there were two victors in the two largest provinces of Canada in elections very close to being back to back, in Ontario and Quebec, and yet the responses of the victors were totally different. We had the Premier of Quebec being magnanimous in victory, being generous in victory, having some sense of reaching out to the people in the province.

Since March 19 I have not heard from the Premier of Ontario a single gesture of magnanimity of any kind. I say that not because I pretend to compare the personalities of two entirely different and successful political leaders in Canada, but because in the world of politics the response is intriguing. Is it because the Premier of Quebec had a certain assurance of his position in the province and the position of his party? Is it because of that sense of assurance that he was able to be generous and magnanimous and open-minded immediately after the election and in the days that followed? And is it perhaps because the Leader of the Conservative Party and Premier of Ontario (Mr. Davis) is not certain of his position or the position of his party with the electorate?

If that is why, then this assembly is going to be a combative one. It intrigues me, because when one really looks at it—and it is no compliment to the Liberal Party or to the New Democratic Party—as my colleague the member for Cornwall (Mr. Samis) put it, with the very low turn out, the margin of victory of the Conservative Party was paper thin. I suppose that is what has conditioned the Premier in his response to the basic questions which were before the electorate of Ontario.

A second matter that intrigues me is that we have begun to notice, certainly in the Metropolitan area and I am certain in other parts of the province, that a small, intensely religious and militantly moral group of activists have selected single issues, usually issues appealing to ancient traditions, to influence the politics of Ontario.

I need not go into the whole question of single issue politics and its origin and development in the United States, nor do I in any sense suggest for a moment that anyone in the provinces does not have a right to put any position he wishes to put on matters of political concern within this province, but I raise again, as an unanswered question and part of the elusive future of politics here, is that going to become a dominating concern of our politics in Ontario? Or is it, as it is at the present time, simply going to be one of those ephemeral side matters affecting the electorate at particular times but not of any fundamental nature and not touching upon the fundamental problems of politics in Ontario?

I would rather hate to see this forum become diverted to intensely individualized moral questions at the expense of the major questions of politics in government, but that may well be the future. I simply raise it as a question because in my own riding of Riverdale we sense the particular single-issue focus that was brought to bear in the last election. I am not particularly concerned about it, but I think it is a matter that all of us fighting for seats in this Legislature must be aware of. I hope in its own way it does not become, in my judgement, a dominant part of political life.

Let me turn to the third matter, and in the long run the most important matter. Ontario politics, as I see them, certainly since the war, perhaps since the turn of the century and maybe since Confederation, have been overwhelmingly concerned with what is fashionably known as economic growth. The Conservative Party has been in power in Ontario during a long period of almost unprecedented economic expansion. They were ousted only during the one period of the economic depression, and I am inclined to think that economics were at the basis of that defeat. I need not be a Marxist in my thinking about economic matters to say that in the time I have been in politics this was the first election in which each of the three partie sensed instinctively that the election had to be fought on the economy.

Whatever one can say, whether one appreciates or disagrees with the quality of the campaign, day in and day out the leaders of each of the parties tried to speak to something called the economy, something called the economic issues. In that particular fight and in that particular election, the Conservative Party position, as expressed by the Premier, the rhetoric, the ideology behind the rhetoric, the propaganda about the economy, was the reassuring view that not only is the economic growth of the province a matter of belief grounded in fact, but that there is no mythology about it, that it is real and solid and we must not in any way disavow our commitment to that belief.

On the other side, we had the Liberal Party and its leader, who devoted his attention solely to trying to say that Ontario was slipping economically in relative terms. I will not speak about their solutions. The Liberal Party seldom has any solutions other than that perhaps, if given the chance, it could do something better than it thinks the Tories could do. In any event, it is fair to say that the Liberal campaign, fought on the issue of the economy, did not make any dent or impression on the Conservative Party or on the electorate in the province. And we paid that price.

The New Democratic Party again fought the election on the issue of the economy. We tried to put the alternatives of socialist solutions to economic problems for the first time in a single-minded way before the electorate, and we were quite unsuccessful. Indeed, there have been many people who criticized the New Democratic Party for having departed from its traditional social concerns and for having spent so much time speaking only of the economy.

It is my sense, for what it may well be worth, that the future will see the economy still as the focus of the next campaign in Ontario because none of us know what that future holds. I happen to think, in its own way, the Conservative Party tried to sell the people of Ontario the idea that there was not going to be a staged deindustrialization of the province, that it was going to continue to be the industrial heartland of Canada, that it was going to continue to expand and develop, and that the prosperity of that economy would determine the extent and degree to which social programs would be maintained, or whether we were going to have to forfeit, because of low economic growth, many of the social programs which have been put in place and have been so valuable in the province over a period of a number of years.

4:30 p.m.

I have a funny sense that behind the rhetoric of the Conservative Party was a sense of the deindustrialization of the province, carefully screened in its rhetoric and carefully cushioned by the projection of something called the BILD program. One could call it pork barrel politics if one wanted to, but the fact of the matter is a series of specific projects were put forward by the Conservative government to try in some way to cushion the economy of the province as it moves down in its stages of deindustrialization. Behind all the rhetoric of the BILD program, they are concerned about the deindustrialization of the province.

It is clear to all of us that the Conservative government, in moving to support the automotive industry, in moving to support Massey-Ferguson, in moving to support the pulp and paper companies has determined by its methods to arrest, if it can, that decline in the Ontario economy.

I think its choices are bad. They are not going to work. That is not to say the state of those industries did not in many cases require that support. Otherwise, the cost in jobs would have been politically disastrous, let alone socially unacceptable in the province. But there is going to be no necessary recovery of the automotive industry, subject to one qualification I will come to. There is a real risk as to whether Massey-Ferguson can really become an Ontario-based Canadian company again after the frolics its management was about all over the world.

My colleague the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) and my colleague the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) can speak better to these matters than I can. But there is real concern whether any modernization program for the forestry industry in northern Ontario, supported by government funds, must mean, because of the technological changes involved, a decrease in the ultimate range of employment in those major industries.

We have the government cushioning, one after another, major sectors of the economy that are in decline and are faced with real and significant problems. Certainly, at the present time, the forestry industry has been making a respectable profit but, as everyone knows, in the long run those industries require government support to be viable and to exist.

Is it perhaps behind the attitude of the Premier in his moment of victory that he is leading the province and southern Ontario in particular to becoming nothing but some kind of offshore service station for foreign capital? Is

the future of southern Ontario really going to be devoted to the provision of services, convention centres and tourist attractions of one kind or another? Is that the future the economy has in store for the people? One cannot turn around the attitudes of people in Ontario after such a long period of economic growth, certainly since the Second World War. One cannot turn around their attitudes in one election.

Our party put in place basic foundation stones and building blocks of a program for this province that will maintain a distance from the United States, that will revitalize this economy, that will as a participant in the Canadian confederation contribute to the independence of Canada in a way that is sadly lacking in the policies of the Conservative Party in Ontario and of the Liberal Party in Ottawa.

There is no question that until we establish some sense of economic distance from the United States the elusive thing called Canadian independence will escape us. That is going to have to be done. We cannot have the recurring crises of inflation and high interest rates reflecting only our response to the United States of America and expect Ontario economically to thrive and be the kind of focal point for the industrial development of Canada we would all it like to be.

I can touch upon a number of other matters, but there is only one in particular I am going to take a moment to speak about before I move on to another special matter. We all received today in the assembly the report and he member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) spoke about it, of the select committee of the House of Commons dealing with disabled people. The document, called Obstacles, is the third report of that committee.

When I was away in the early days of this session on holiday, I had an opportunity to read that report. I say to the government that the comment in the throne speech is totally inadequate to meet the needs reflected in the 133 recommendations contained in the report. If the government had any sense of the importance of the matters raised relating to the participation by disabled people in the life of the country, it will see to it, before this assembly rises in June, that a select committee of this assembly is appointed.

That committee would have clear and specific purposes, namely, to review each and every one of the 133 recommendations of the report; to determine to what extent the items covered in those recommendations fall within provincial jurisdiction and to what extent they require harmonious working between the federal government and the provincial government and their co-operation to carry them out; and to report back to this assembly when it reconvenes in the fall, around October 1, with specific recommendations as to what can be done in Ontario to dovetail the activities in Ontario with the recommendations in that report and the action of the federal government, and also what action we can expect from the municipalities of the province, so that in co-operation and harmony we can work together in order to make certain there are clearly seen to be specific changes of benefit to disabled persons in their participation in this society.

I say to the government it will be in default if it does not seriously consider some recommendation similar to that in the course of the next few weeks in the assembly.

I want to finish. I could deal with Re-Mor; I could deal with plant shutdowns; I could deal with pension questions; or I could deal with any number of topics, but there will be other occasions. At the moment I want to deal with one matter, the constitution of the country. As I understand it, there has been no indication from the government that the select committee dealing with the constitution is going to be reappointed.

May I simply read to the House the heading of our report on the constitution, The Task Ahead. The report was tabled last fall and was debated in the assembly. The government has never been anxious for this assembly to understand the constitution of the country, let alone the intractable problems we will be faced with in the future, regardless of the success or failure of the matter before the Supreme Court of Canada with respect to the constitutional amendments covered in those resolutions.

4:40 p.m.

The select committee was reappointed, but died with the dissolution of the assembly at the time of the call for the election. In The Task Ahead, the following was stated: "Severe time constraints, coupled with the breadth of the matters included within the scope of constitutional reform, have compelled your committee to narrow its focus primarily to the 12 items under discussion by the first ministers this fall." Those are the 12 items which are listed in the index to our report.

"There are, however, many other constitutional subjects of equal and, in some cases, greater concern, that require further study. The

process of constitutional reform is likely to take some time and its progress is not subject to measurement in weeks or months. Given the importance which our committee attaches to this process and given the significant role which the Legislative Assembly of Ontario will play in the ratification process"—that appears to have disappeared, depending on the result of the reference to the Supreme Court of Canada—"it is imperative that attention be focused on the following substantive questions."

This was the agenda of matters remaining outstanding that the committee was to deal with. They are not dry as dust topics; they are topics touching upon the heart of the federal system in the country. They include the doctrine of concurrency, the federal spending power, the role of municipalities, electoral reform of the House of Commons, native peoples, transportation, the process of constitutional change, resource industries—taxing, ownership and royalties—immigration and citizenship, education, taxation, agriculture, foreign policy, labour relations, environment, consumer protection, tourism, health, social services and income security, formula and process of equalization, and the implications of the British North America Ac, section 133, of which my clleaguethe member for York South (Mr. MacDonald) spoke at length yesterday.

The report ended by saying, "In view of these considerations, your committee recommends that its work be continued." That was the unanimous recommendation of an all-party committee of this assembly, which was accepted. The committee died, and I hope it will be reconstituted.

A little guessing game about the Supreme Court of Canada might be of some interest. I would no be surprised—if the Premier happens to hear this, it is not a betting proposition, becauseI bet him on another occasio on a constitutional matter—but it maywell be that the Supreme Court of Canada is placed in the position of having to say that whatever the nature of the federal system which is evolving in Canada may be, it cannot be changed unilaterally by the Parliament of Canada when there is the opposition of eight Premiers heading the governments in eight provinces of Canada, comprising 14-plus million people in Canada, and when it is supported only by the federal government and two provinces, comprising something in the nature of less than 10 million people.

Put into mathematical terms of a formula, it may well be that simply the court will say, "Whatever the benefits, whatever the merits may be, however necessary those things may be, if over two thirds of the provinces of Canada, representing over 50 per cent of the population, do not support it, then we must turn the matter back and let it develop under some other process." That may well be the case.

The other side of the coin has been put time and time again but, regardless of the result, the areas of concern in the constitution which were set out in The Task Ahead in the select committee's report require urgent attention. I am going to encroach for about three more minutes to try to state very clearly one area of fundamental and basic concern about which there is a total misapprehension. I do not know what the answer to it is, but I think we have to be clear about it. That is one of the reasons members of this assembly have to understand it.

The process under the equalization formula, which was adopted many years ago in order to maintain the standard of basic services in all of the provinces at the same tax burden, was dramatically changed by the increase in world oil prices and the question of sharing of the revenues in the provinces of Saskatchewan and Albrta. The eqalization ormula averaged 19 specific provincial taxes, of which four related to oil and gas.

In the days of low oil prices, it did not matter that the federal government had only marginal access to those revenues. But then the increasing price of natural gas and oil began reverberating throughout the economy, which meant that these equalization payments to all of the provinces that were entitled to them—not Ontario; we can come to that at some other time—were going to have to be pid by the federal government out of its revenue sourcs without any significant access to the revenues that were going to flowto the oil-producing provinces.

What has happened is that in the gradual process of movement towards higher prices to meet the legitimate claims of the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, the equalization payments of the federal government to the so-called have-not provinces have increased immeasurably. But the federal government does not have access to any of the revenues flowing to the oil-producing provinces that will permit that equalization formula to work, except as may develop in the course of this long drawn-out negotiation.

Not only was the equalization formula threatened, the financial stability of the government of Canada was threatened because it chose the

route of deficit financing to meet the gap—both to subsidize the cost of the imported oil to keep the price down and to meet the additional equalization payments. Its only alternative was to increase the income tax. If one does that, by the very nature of the federal taxation system, the per capita income tax for residents of Ontario payable to the federal government would rise at a very significant rate. Everyone in this House knows what the electoral hazards for the federal government would be if it chose that route.

We in Ontario have to understand the price which this process of negotiation requires. Strange as it may seem, world price for oil in Ontario and no equalization payments obligation on the federal government might well be the very best for Ontario. But we must solve the equalization formula—restructure it or settle what its terms are going to be—for, regardless of the legal format of the constitution, if those financial questions are not solved, we will not be able to maintain the independence of the country.

It is for that reason, among many others, that I feel it is essential for members of the assembly to be aware of the implications of the financial negotiations which are going to take place.

4:50 p.m.

Finally, I would like to refer briefly to the response in the House of Commons of the Minister of Finance on this question because the negotiations which are going on with respect to the relationship between the federal government and the provincial government are absolutely immense. As members know, the House of Commons has established a task force that has been dealing with the established program financing arrangements. On February 25, in response to a question related to one aspect of this matter, Mr. MacEachen had this to say:

"What we have said, which is clear in the budget projections, is that for 1982-83 and 1983-84 we expect to secure savings in the field of intergovernmental transfers to the provinces in the amount of $1.5 billion. The intergovernmental transfers at the present time amount to $17 billion. We are looking forward to the examination of the parliamentary task force, which will assist us in reaching our position before we present it to the provinces."

If the House of Commons, for whatever reasons, had the wit and wisdom to establish some kind of task force to try to study and understand the implications of those kinds of cuts, then in rough-and-ready terms if we are talking of $1.5 billion, we are talking of $500 million for Ontario on a roughly one third basis. If they are talking about those kinds of cuts, those cuts will come at the expense of the programs that have been established year after year through the moneys that have been payable by the people of Ontario. If we start to dismantle them and to reduce the level of services, then we are going backwards and not making the kind of progress that we in Ontario deserve.

The government must involve the members of the assembly, if for no other reason than to make certain that they at least know the nature of the problem. The nature of the problem, as I have tried to outline it and as I understand it—and I can well be quite wrong in my analysis—concerns that fundamental financial negotiation related to the equalization payments, related to the way in which the federal government will have to cut back in order to reduce its deficit financing position, or else raise taxes which are unacceptable. Where among the programs of this province is the $500 million going to come from? Where is the cutback going to come from? That is my way of saying to the Premier, "I can well understand why you have not been able to be gracious in victory."

The problems are intractable; they are extremely difficult. This party will endeavour to put forward what the Premier is always talking about, namely, positive and constructive suggestions as to how this country and this province can enhance their independence and achieve the kind of economic security that will permit our social programs not to be curtailed, but to be expanded and developed, in order that the quality of life for everybody in Ontario and elsewhere in Canada can be as high as we can possibly make it, given the potential of the province.

Mr. McNeil: Mr. Speaker, may I, first of all, take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as Speaker of this Legislature. Having been associated with you since 1971, I know you will carry out your responsibilities in a manner befitting the high office of Speaker. I would also like to congratulate the member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz) on being named Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the committee of the whole House and the member for York Centre (Mr. Cousens) on becoming Deputy Chairman.

In addition, congratulations are in order to those former back-benchers in the government

who are now members of the executive council and who will be developing the policies of this government in the years ahead.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Mr. McNeil has the floor.

Mr. McNeil: I would also like to congratulate all those members who have been re-elected, and the new members who have been elected, on their first opportunity to serve in this House.

The riding of Elgin, which I have the honour to represent, was created prior to the election of 1934.

Mr. Nixon: It used to be Mitch Hepburn's riding.

Mr. McNeil: The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk is quite right. It was won in the election of 1934 by the late Mitchell Frederick Hepburn who was the last Liberal member for that riding.

The riding has remained with the same boundaries since that time, with the exception of the years 1967 to 1975, when three municipalities from the then county of Norfolk were added. Today two of those municipalities are represented by the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk and one municipality is represented by the member for Haldimand-Norfolk (Mr. G. I Miller).

I feel it has been a great honour for me to represent this riding in the Legislature for a number of years. I might say that Elgin riding has a strong agricultural base in addition to two urban centres, the city of St. Thomas and the town of Aylmer. Our agriculture is very diversified, with excellent fruit and tobacco farms, successful dairy operations, extensive hog and beef farms, some large poultry operations and a great many cash crop farms, growing a large acreage of corn, soy, white and coloured beans.

In 1985, the county will be hosting the international ploughing match. I know all members would be most welcome to the county of Elgin in October of that year.

This government has a long and steady record of service to agriculture. As a farmer myself, I have been grateful for the high quality of that service on many occasions. As a member of the Legislature, I am proud to be a member of a government that has built this service to the high standards that now apply. In my present position as parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Henderson) it has been my privilege to witness the delivery of that service at first hand.

Service provided to agriculture is a service from which the whole of society benefits. It is this government's firm belief that food production is best effected by the present system based on the family farm. The farm family is the backbone of our society.

Mr. Nixon: What are you going to do about high interest rates?

Mr. McNeil: Well, they are created by the federal government. I think the minister will be making a statement in this House on Thursday about his meeting with the federal Minister of Agriculture. I understand that the Minister of Agriculture for Canada has said that they will assume some of the responsibility. They are finally realizing that there are high interest rates which are costing the farmers of this province and of Canada a great deal of money.

The ownership of productive land by individual family units has given our society its solid basis. This remains true, even though only a little over four per cent of our population now lives on farms. It is the dream of many city and town people to own a farm and raise their family in the rural traditions which are the very root of a free society. For these reasons, it is crucially important that we maintain a strong agricultural community in this province. It is also for these reasons that all of society benefits from programs which serve to strengthen agriculture.

5 p.m.

I would like to review a few of the programs provided through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to show this House what I mean. I should like to begin with the extension service. Ours is the oldest such service in North America and is one on which the others are modelled. This service began in 1907 with the hiring of six young men known as district representatives. It has grown until every county, district and region in the province has an agricultural representative. Around this nucleus grew a multitude of services, including specialists in everything from home economics to agricultural engineering.

There are about 130 ag reps and assistants throughout the province. They serve the more than 65,000 census farms in this province and are assisted by some 25 engineers and nearly 40 home economists. The ag rep services exemplify one of the guiding principles behind the government's agricultural programs, namely, accessibility. The ag reps and their assistants are within easy reach of their client population. A farmer can stop by the ag rep's office when he is in town or he can ask the ag rep to make a farm visit. Either way, a farmer gets the service he needs within a few hours of asking for it.

The extension service of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has changed with the changing times. It continues to offer advice and information in the traditional areas of livestock and crop management but, increasingly, business and financial management advice have been provided. Today's ag rep is engaged in youth work, livestock, crops, soils and farm organization work as well as management and finance. In other words, they deal with all the matters which are vital to the agricultural community.

The farm management program is one of the most complete and comprehensive carried out anywhere. The extension staff conducts the program at the local level where close contact with farm families makes this a highly effective advisory service. Management advice can cover anything from the use of the Ontario farm account book to the latest information on tillage practices. The program is well-received.

The members might be interested that more than 24,000 people attended meetings on farm management in 1979 and 1980, almost 130,000 came to livestock management meetings and more than 51,000 to soil and crop management meetings. In addition, extension staff conducted more than 53,000 individual consultations in the same three areas.

The extension service is well-known for its youth programs with the 4-H clubs and junior farmers. In this work, the government fully supports their efforts. It is an investment in the future. Much of the leadership work is done by volunteers, many of whom came through a 4-H and junior farmers program themselves and are testimony to the success of these programs down through the years.

Each year between 1,200 and 1,500 adults volunteer their time and effort as leaders of 4-H clubs. The purpose of 4-H is to provide experiences for our young people which will increase their agricultural skills and assist their personal development as individuals and members of a community. Under the motto, "Self-help and community betterment," the junior farmer organization provides opportunities for young people to develop a sense of social responsibility, the ability to lead and an awareness of their duties as citizens. These are goals we can all identify with and goals this government certainly supports.

Next year the extension service will be celebrating its 75th anniversary. It has an honourable history, and I am sure this House will wish to join in paying tribute to our ag reps, past and present. Seventy-five years ago, the ministry hired six young men to start this service. Today, the present staff of 130 includes eight young women.

Speaking about youth programs, as I was a moment ago, it is appropriate here for me to include some remarks about the educational opportunities this government makes available for young people in agriculture. The ministry supports four colleges of agricultural technology in four strategically located centres. Each college tends to specialize to some degree in topics of particular interest to each area as well as offering courses of a more general interest.

For example, New Liskeard College keeps a flock of sheep and does a great deal of work on problems of raising beef in the north, Kemptville College is known for its dairy herd and for work done on early maturing soybeans, Centralia stresses field crops, while Ridgetown is known for work in swine as well as crops.

In addition, all of the colleges offer courses in general agriculture, while some offer specialized courses, such as agricultural lab technology, food service supervision or agricultural business management.

The oldest of the colleges is the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph. The University of Guelph operates the Ontario Agricultural College under contract to the ministry and carries on the traditions established by the college that made Ontario famous for agricultural education. The Ontario Agricultural College opened its doors in 1874. The most recent agricultural college opened its doors in 1958, and this fall a new college will be added at Elford.

Agriculture has seen immense changes in that period, but the education offered in our colleges has kept pace with all of those changes. Today's graduates can do anything from operating a computer terminal to setting up a bookkeeping system, supervising an institutional food service or performing complicated laboratory procedures. The schools offer the best farm management education available; so that the student who studies in the more traditional areas is capable of meeting just about any challenge that may occur in the operation of a farm.

Around 30 per cent of our farmers have post-secondary education. That is a pretty good rate; however, it is the ministry's goal to encourage farmers and over the next five years to raise that rate to 50 per cent in order that Ontario farmers may have an opportunity to further their education in the field of agriculture.

One of the ways to assist farmers to upgrade their education is to make it possible for them to study while they work their farms. Through the colleges, the government has for some years provided just this opportunity. For more than 20 years it has been possible for any citizen of Ontario to take a diploma in agriculture or horticulture through the independent study program at the Ontario Agricultural College. An agricultural diploma has been added to this program; so it is now possible for a person to study agriculture by correspondence while running a farm or working on one.

Literally dozens of short courses are offered each year. One college, New Liskeard, offers all its courses in two-week modules so that northern farmers can travel the distance to study without taking an inordinate amount of time away from their farms. Anyone who is active in farming knows this is very important, particularly in that area.

5:10 p.m.

Enrolment in the colleges continues to rise and agricultural college graduates continue to have an extremely high success rate in finding work in their chosen fields soon after graduation. I have had the opportunity to meet many of these young people at various functions, and I continue to be impressed by the quality of their work and by the enthusiasm they bring to agriculture. Our most important agricultural resource is our young people, and I think the future of farming is in good hands in this province.

Ontario agriculture is an extremely diversified industry producing more than 200 different commodities. The government's programs are designed to meet the varying needs of this highly diversified sector of our economy. These programs are also designed to keep Ontario agriculture up to date with new technologies, new products and new methods.

The incredible productivity of Ontario agriculture is readily seen in the following statistics. It might be interesting to know that in the 1930s a farmer could feed 10 people. By 1950, that figure had risen to 21. Today an Ontario farmer can feed himself and 60 other people. That immense productivity is a tribute to our farmers, to our agribusiness and to government programs.

Some of that productivity can be attributed to government-funded research. The government of Ontario has by far the biggest research budget of any province in Canada. We put more than $23 million into 900 research projects ranging from nonchemical pest control to energy-efficient greenhouses, from developing cold-resistant crops to trout farming.

Research in Ontario has paid off at the rate of 40 to one. For every dollar of public funds invested in agricultural research, society at large has reaped $40 in benefits. That is a tremendous accomplishment, and it shows the wisdom of this government in supporting research.

As a result of agricultural research, Ontario is self-sufficient in grain corn. Thirty years ago, hardly any corn grew here. In the next few years we will see the same results with soybeans. Already there are crops of soybeans in eastern Ontario where only three or four years ago there were none. I believe it is reasonable to look forward to the day when this province will be nearly self-sufficient in just about anything that can grow here, and a great deal of the credit for this will belong to our research program.

Self-sufficiency is an ambitious goal and one we may never reach for a variety of reasons, but I think we could come very close. The number of government programs aimed at boosting production of a range of crops show this government's determination to come as close to self-sufficiency as possible.

The Board of Industrial Leadrship and Development program to upgrade fruit and vegetable storage is a case in point. Together with a program to upgrade one million acres of agricultural land by means of drainage and scrub tree removal, the agricultural productivity incentive program, its forerunner, and the capital grants program have accomplished a great deal in modernizing Ontario agriculture.

We can see the results on a drive through any part of our countryside. There are new barns, new storage facilities and new erosion control projects, many partly funded by government programs. These programs represent a $165-million investment in the plant and machinery of agricultural production, and they generated another $500 million worth of economic activity in the rural areas. These programs are good examples of government assisting farmers to help themselves.

Drainage is another program where the principal aim is increased productivity. In fact, good drainage is the single most important factor in increasing productivity. This government is making funding available to farmers at a reduced rate of interest to cover two thirds of the cost of a drainage project.

Mr. T. P. Reid: "Cover up" is the right phrase.

Mr. McNeil: Well, one does cover up drains. I will inform the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid), an expert in agricultural production, that it is rather necessary to cover drains.

Last year the program contained $27 million. In all, $107.8 million is outstanding on these loans. That represents thousands of well-drained productive Ontario acres. More than $200 million has been spent on drainage by Ontario farmers in the past decade. At the present time, about three million acres have had drainage upgraded, and another three million will be upgraded around the turn of the century. I think we have every reason to be confident that this will come about in the future, as it has in the past, through the combined efforts of government and farmers.

Farming can be a precarious business, subject to market swings and inclement weather as no other business is. This government believes that the farm family cannot be asked to bear those risks unaided.

Mr. Nixon: I thought the member was going to do something about the weather.

Mr. McNeil: That comes under federal jurisdiction. The member should speak to his friends in Ottawa about it. Of course, the Ontario Liberal Party is not speaking to the federal Liberal Party at the present time, is it?

Interjections.

Mr. McNeil: Mr. Speaker, to help spread the risks that our food producers must take, this government has introduced two very important programs; these are crop insurance and stabilization. They are not giveaway programs. They spread the risks, they do not eliminate them. Farmers, after all, are businessmen. They do not want government taking the initiative from them. Crop insurance and stabilization, therefore, are administered and partly funded by the government. The farmers pay premiums on crop insurance, and they pay fees to the stabilization plans.

In 1980, there were crop insurance plans for 38 different crops. In some, as many as 95 per cent of the growers insured their crops. In all, there were 28,000 contracts covering 1.7 million acres. Those insured crops were worth around $400 million, with premiums of $27 million. This program has come a long way since it was introduced in 1966. Indications for the year 1981 growing season show farmers are insuring their crops at a rate that could lead to $500 million worth of insured crop thi year.

There are five stabilization plans in effect at the moment. Stabilization plans are established at the request of a majority of the producers of the commodity in question. Four field crops—soybeans, white beans, winter wheat and grain corn—currently have plans. Under the terms of these plans, payouts are made when market prices fall below a certain level that is calculated on a formula that includes an allowance for production costs.

Last year prices held well for these crops and no payout was necessary. It was a different story, however, for the fifth plan. This plan covers hogs, and hog prices were low last year. Members might be interested to know that the plan paid out $9.3 million to enrolled producers. That amounts to just over $50 per sow. That payment covered the first period of the plan from April 1980 to September 1980. For the second period, which ran to March 1981, there will be another payout.

5:20 p.m.

In this Legislature we hear a lot about what the government does and does not do, but I want to point out something. The other day I was listening to the CBC—that was before the strike—and I heard a report that the Quebec government paid out $3 million to hog farmers to cover a period of 18 months. I think our plan compares very well indeed.

Stabilization plans have definitely proved their worth. In the 1970s it was the cow-calf stabilization plan that saved our beef producers, and it looks as if the sow-weaner plan is saving our hog producers.

This government stands ready to establish a stabilization plan for any commodity group that shows it wants one. The legislation that was passed in this House allows any producer group to have a plan if a majority of producers favour that idea.

I have only been able to touch on a few of the government's agricultural programs. There are many more, such as herd improvement, food inspection and marketing, to list only three very general headings. All of them are geared to support farm families in their dedicated efforts to produce the food that we all depend on.

Mr. Riddell: The member wouldn't give that speech back home.

Mr. McNeil: I am quite prepared to give it anywhere.

We have some of the world's finest farmers, and they are producing some of the highest-quality food grown anywhere. Those farmers deserve our support, nd they will continue to get it from this government.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to have the opportunity to speak on the throne speech as representative, once more, of the riding of Haldimand-Norfolk, although it would be much better if I could do so from the other side of the House. After five years of dedication and hard work, I was sure that we in the Liberal Party could accomplish it after 37 years of the same government.

For many reasons, however, we were not able to accomplish that. One was the fact that we could not get a debate of the party leaders to get our policies before the people of Ontario. Another was that the Premier (Mr. Davis) and the governnt called the election at a time when the fewest people were likely to exercise their franchise. Only 57 per cent of the electorate turned out at the polls, which is a disgrace. We should be encouraging our citizens to take part in the election and exercise their franchise, because it is very important that we keep our democratic system alive.

I welcome all the new members who now sit in the Legislature along with the members who have been around for many years. I believe the new member for Lakeshore (Mr. Kolyn) has a brother down in Simcoe whom we know quite well. I was quite surprised to see that Al was running, particularly for the government party. As well, the member for Northumberland (Mr. Sheppard), whose son lives in Simcoe, came along at the opening of the session to get acquainted.

I also congratulate the new Speaker and Deputy Speaker for taking on the responsibility of controlling the House. At the same time, I want to give our former Speaker, the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), due credit for the job he did over the past few years.

Getting back to the election, I felt that we Liberals had a good shot at it because of the fact that this government has been around for 37 years. They have become tired and dictatorial. If the people had been given a change to really see it as it is, I think they would have made a different decision. Just one example of their attitude is the fact that they want to use the South Cayuga site in my riding for waste disposal.

The member for Elgin (Mr. McNeil), who is the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Henderson), just gave us a lengthy speech on what the government has done for agriculture. But it did not give our young people the opportunity to acquire this land.

We pointed out in the election that many of our young people are leaving for western Canada for the opportunities there, because they cannot get access to land in Ontario. A good example is South Cayuga which under the old classification is 90 per cent class one and two agricultural land. Under the new classification it is class one, class two and class three.

The government should not be in the land buying business in the first place by its purchase of massive sites such as South Cayuga, Pickering, Edwardsburgh and Townsend. It has stripped the heart out of these communities and towns and, consequently, our young people cannot get their hands on any of that property. If they can get it, they have to compete with the foreign investor who is able to come in with his dollar at a devalued rate. Our dollar is devalued compared to theirs, and we have to compete.

This government does not have any assistance plans such as exist in other provinces in Canada. I guess Quebec is the closest example. It is trying to assist the young farmer to get him back on the land and to give him an opportunity to get his hands on something. Even at a time when interest rates are running higher than anything that has ever been experienced before, this government does not see fit to do that.

I have had calls every day this past week from farmers needing assistance. They have family farms that have been in the business for 10, 12, 15 and 20 years and one, in fact, for a lifetime. The bank is beginning to close in on them. We have tried to point that out to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. There are not only fruit farmers but also tobacco farmers, dairy farmers and vegetable growers as well as pork producers and beef farmers. They run the whole gamut.

To see if this government really cares about agriculture, go back to 1979 when it brought in the interest rate assistance and did not even give consideration to the tobacco industry.

I agree with the comments that agriculture is the backbone of our community. It is the backbone of our province. It is one way of feeding the hungry in the world. But if the government does not give our young people a chance to get their hands on it, if it continues to cover it up, pave it over and dump our waste on it, then we are not going to have it available for our young people.

That is one of the areas I want to point out to our new Minister of the Environment (Mr. Norton). I hope he is more flexible and realistic than the one we had in the past. I have a lot of respect for the last minister as a person but, in

carrying out his duties, he was carrying out the wishes of the government without any concern for the future of the good agricultural land we have in Ontario, particularly in that part of Ontario in the valley of the Grand River where the heat units are second-best in Canada.

If the government establishes a waste site in that particular location, it could affect the fishing industry in Lake Erie, which is probably second to none in the world as far as fresh water fish is concerned. It produces 75 per cent of Ontario's fresh water fish and more than 50 per cent of that in Canada. I do not think we would want to ruin that business.

Also, with the availability of all sorts of water, irrigation could play a role in the future. Further, we have all kinds of industry being established in the area at present, for example, there is Stelco, a major steelmaking firm, probably the largest in Canada. There is also the establishment of an industrial park of 6,500 acres in the city of Nanticoke, with 3,000 acres being set aside for the steel plant and 3,500 acres for industrial development. We have two plants in that area. We have water service available.

It is time to focus on the existing municipalities that have industrial parks and give them a hand, rather than coming out to virgin areas such as South Cayuga to dispose of our industrial waste. We should be doing it in regions and not transporting it across the province. Each area should take care of its own. Industry should have some responsibility. I know it would if it was given the right incentive.

I think the Minister of the Environment has his work cut out for him. It is a crucial time. We have to deal with the problem; there is no doubt about that. But we have to consider the future of this great province. We have to consider the future of that particular area of Ontario. That is the area I was elected to represent, and I intend to fight, as I have indicated many times in the Legislature, so that we are protecting our future.

5:30 p.m.

It is not myself I am concerned about; it is our young people. I am concerned so that they may have an opportunity to get their hands on something they can share and so that they can have something to look forward to. That is the basic concern of the members of this Legislature, whether on this side of the House or on the other side of the House. We hope to have influence so that we can give some direction along that line.

The previous speaker has indicated that we are increasing our production. I think Ontario's food production is really declining. Just 15 years ago, Ontario farmers produced more beef, pork, poultry, eggs, dairy products and vegetables than we could eat. This is no longer the case. Ontario accounts for between 35 to 40 per cent of Canada's imports of agricultural products, at a cost of about $1.5 billion yearly. Mr. Speaker, can you imagine that?

Referring to my own riding of Haldimand-Norfolk, Misener Steamship Line is proposing a development at the mouth of the Grand River, at Port Maitland, with the intention of establishing an elevator where we could have access to the St. Lawrence Seaway and the export market and with proper depth where those ships come in. There is no point in putting up the elevators if we do not utilize that land to its best effect to provide those elevators with the stock.

The particular area of Ontario I represent needs tile drainage, and that is all it needs. It is class one, class two and class three land; but if it were properly drained, it would produce with anything in the country. Therefore, I am asking the Minister of Agriculture and Food to give consideration to setting aside this land to be utilized for agricultural purposes for our future generations, with proper drainage provided, and examples could be set by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food for land improvement.

A long way down the road, future generations will be thankful if we take this leadership and show concern for that part of Ontario.

Another concern we have in the riding is for the small municipalities. Before the election campaign I was invited down to the chamber of commerce at Port Rowan to explain our proposals. The election was coming some time in the future; it had not been called at that point. I was trying to explain to them about this government and the way it was forcing the waste disposal site on South Cayuga. They said: "We don't give a damn what happens in South Cayuga. What are you going to do for us? We have lost four businesses in the past year. Do you have any plans to give our little community of about 1,000 people any assistance?"

I want to point out to the House that Port Rowan is at the gateway to Long Point. We have the Backus Conservation Area. We have provincial parks on Long Point. We have Turkey Point, Normandale, Port Ryerse, all of which are fantastic summer resorts with a lot of history and great places to spend a vacation. We have asked the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) to designate this area for an information booth so information can be provided to the tourists we should be attracting.

The area really has not been promoted as extensively as it should have been. Within 100 miles of that area we have access to millions of people in Toronto, Buffalo and Detroit, and that is one more reason why my colleague the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) and myself were supportive of the Talbot Trail. I will say thanks to the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow), the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Grossman) and the Minister of Natural Resources for co-operating and promoting the Talbot Trail, which has now been established. I think the signs are being put up at the present time by each municipality from Windsor to Buffalo.

I know that our area can play a tremendous role as far as tourism is concerned. The people would enjoy it, it would help business, and w would just like to have a little share of that money put back into the area to encourage and attract people.

Only last Thursday night, at the Wintario draw down at Dunnville, the comment was made by the people running the draw that it was the first time they had been to Dunnville. Dunnville is located on the Grand River only a few miles from Port Maitland. It is a fantastic recreational river. I hope we will be able to travel by boat from Port Maitland to Brantford in my lifetime. They replaced the dam at Caledonia last year with a lock to give access to the Upper Grand. I think the plan is to replace the dam at Dunnville, which is 150 years old and needs upgrading. Only this week the Dunnville Chronicle said: "Dam Needs Work, Councillors Told." I know money was set aside during the election, indicating that they would be upgrading it.

Only last Saturday I had the opportunity to canoe down from Caledonia to Cayuga with my son; we were canoeing for cancer. It was about a three-hour trip. It is the first time I have had that opportunity since last year. It does not cost a cent. All you need is the canoe and a little energy to follow the current down. I would not want to canoe uphill, but going down is great.

On the way down we ran into a school of fish. I could not believe it: The water was about a foot and a half deep; we could see the fish bouncing ahead of us as we coasted down with the canoe and we could hear the fish hitting the bottom of the boat. They were big fish, two and a half feet long.

Interjections.

Mr. G. I. Miller: You will not see it if you do not get out in the morning. You have to get up early, Mr. Speaker. We have so many great things, and it does not cost a cent to see them. I say to all the people in Ontario who live in the city, just come down to Haldimand-Norfolk; the tourism is fantastic, the facilities are great and I want to see them improved.

Another area of concern is several small ports or marinas. One is at Murphy's Harbour. It is not a designated port, a federal port; it does not qualify for assistance in cleaning out the harbour, but it is filling up with sand. Again, we are trying to get it designated through the federal government and the Ministry of Natural Resources here so that we can get some assistance, because they have accommodation for 100 boats. They do not have access to it, and they cannot afford to do it themselves, because it is a $100,000 job; it is a major job. But I think that, working together with the local marina operator and the local people, we can improve that facility so it can attract people also.

There are many areas I want to speak about, but I want to share my time with the former Speaker of the House; so I think I will leave it at that at present. We have other issues, such as Townsend, housing, job opportunities for our young people and the closing of the Essex automotive parts plant in Dunnville. Again, we ask the Minister of Industry and Tourism to make a special effort to assist some of these small towns and the problems they have in terms of plant closings .

Up to this point that plant is still running empty, and a letter from the Canada Employment Centre in Dunnville indicates that "600 to 800 people are registered with us continually. If this figure is compared with the gross population of 5,000, and considering that perhaps 3,000 to 4,000 are participants in the labour market, a rough estimate of the unemployment rate would be from 12 to 20 per cent." This clearly indicates that Dunnville and our small towns need help. Instead of opening up new town sites such as Townsend, that money should be directed and assistance given to the small municipalities so they can survive. They are our roots and our future, and this is what I would like to see happen.

We will bring other problems to the attention of the House. We have four years to do it. I am certainly glad to have the opportunity to bring a few of the problems to your attention today, Mr. Speaker.

5:40 p.m.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Speaker, I want first of all to congratulate you on the heavy and onerous

responsibility you have accepted on our behalf. I think there is evidence already that you are carrying on the tradition I tried to establish in this House of being fair, firm, impartial and consistent. I hope you will continue in that vein.

I also want to congratulate your two deputies, the Deputy Speaker and the Chairman of the committees of the whole House and his Deputy Chairman, on the onerous responsibilities they have accepted on our behalf and wish them well in their new tasks.

I also want to join in the sentiments expressed by many speakers in this throne speech debate in welcoming the new members on all sides of the House to what is sometimes called, pehaps erroneously, the most exclusive club in Ontario. I want to suggest on their behalf, and on behalf of all the older members who have not had the opportunity to visit that geographic entity called northern Ontario, that perhaps the new Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) will undertake a tour of the northern part of this province, something we have not had since 1972, when we visited northeastern Ontario. The junket prior to that was in 1968, when we toured northwestern Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Norton: It would be educational too.

Mr. Stokes: It would be an education for many of them, including the minister who just interjected. It would give him an opportunity to see what 15 members out of the 125 who have the privilege of sitting in this House are speaking about constantly. In most instances, we think we are voices crying in the wilderness, because in the overall political scheme of things, if one wants to be politically crass about it, when we are only 15 members representing four fifths of the province, in a geographic sense we have to holler that much louder and that much longer, and we have to be that much more convincing to get the kind of attention we deserve in northern Ontario.

I want to remind you, Mr. Speaker, that in 1970 the government of Ontario announced its design for development program for northwestern Ontario. It was the first, other than that for the Toronto-centred region. It designated specific areas for potential growth based on greater utilization of forest and mineral resources and increased tourism activity. It specifically recommended the greater development of social infrastructure and diversification of the regional economy by attracting manufacturing industry and tertiary or service industry. More advanced phases of resource processing and manufacturing were to be encouraged to locate in northern Ontario.

More than 10 years later, we have both the federal and provincial governments offering hundreds of millions of dollars to the pulp and paper industry for plant improvement, pollution abatement equipment, reforestation and road construction for access to new resources. In many cases this has resulted in increased efficiency and a reduction in job opportunities through greater automation.

Industry complains that governments are legislating and regulating them beyond reason, while at the same time it clamours for financial handouts and tax concessions at the expense of the already overburdened taxpayers. In a society where free enterprise or a mixed economy system seems to be the order of the day, why is industry abdicating its responsibility, particularly in northwestern Ontario?

Let me give an example. The township of Nipigon has been negotiating with CP Rail, Imperial Oil and the Hudson's Bay Company to initiate a plan of downtown commercial redevelopment on land owned by CP, leased to Imperial Oil for bulk storage and required for a commercial shopping complex to be built by the Bay company.

If the township pays CP $145,000 for the land and pays for the relocation of the Imperial Oil bulk storage plant, estimated to cost between $100,000 and $200,000, and exchanges this parcel of land with the Bay for land already owned by it near Highway 17 in that community and valued at $94,000, this project can proceed.

This means that if the Nipigon taxpayers, without an industrial tax base, pay these large corporations in excess of $200,000, Nipigon can embark upon this downtown redevelopment project. It would be interesting to find out how much the people in the Nipigon area have contributed to the financial wellbeing of these three corporations over the past several decades. It would be more interesting to find out how many municipalities would permit a bulk storage plant in the very heart of their downtown area.

I am not presuming to speak for the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid) but, getting back to industrial responsibility, what of the Atikokan situation where Steep Rock Iron Mines Limited closed their operations along with Caland and left nothing behind, after more than 30 years of operation, but a huge hole in the landscape? Incidentally, if you look at the

financial records of Steep Rock Iron Mines, I think it was one of the few companies that, in its 35-year history in Ontario and in Canada, never paid a penny in income tax. What did they leave by way of a legacy to the member for Rainy River and the people he represents in Atikokan?

What guarantees have been forthcoming from pulp and paper companies that further processing will be done in northern Ontario to justify the large handouts to those companies? It is common knowledge that plant improvements financed in part by federal and provincial contributions will result in a loss of an alarming number of jobs, particularly in towns like Kenora, which is represented by the member for Kenora, the Minister of Northern Affairs.

I have had private conversations with the minister, and I know he is agonizing over the fact that we are spending a lot of taxpayers' dollars out of the federal and provincial coffers. The net effect is a total reduction in the number of jobs for a relatively small northern community with no assurance that further processing is going to take place to replace those jobs which have become redundant as a result of automation.

These are the kinds of promises that were given in the $1.5-billion Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program that was used to attract the voter to the way of thinking over there, on the assumption that if this government came up with $750 million over the next five years at the rate of about $150 million a year, with concurrent commitments from some other unknown source, either the federal government or the municipalities, perhaps the BILD program could see the light of day. We expect this government to keep those promises.

In the brief amount of time left open I want to sort of touch on the tip of the problems that are facing a lot of the people in northwestern Ontario and, I am sure, in northeastern Ontario, based on a concept that was undertaken several years ago called strategic land-use planning.

We felt that in northwestern Ontario we were in the vanguard of that kind of planning, and we had hoped that long before now we would have reached the point where we could have been making some candidate options as to the kind of land-use planning that would ensue that would allow us to make the best possible use of available resources whether they be in mining, forestry, tourism or recreational opportunities, thus making the best use of the land mass we have in such abundance in that area.

5:50 p.m.

After this playing around and toying with the idea of strategic land-use planning over the past 10 years, complaints are now coming in to me from editorial commentators and from various interest groups in northern Ontario, saying: "Whatever happened to consultation? Whatever happened to sitting down and talking about the various options that are available in advance of the decision having been taken, particularly in the case of the Ministry of Natural Resources?"

If I had the time, I would read an important article from the Geraldton Times-Star, written by my Conservative opponent in the 1971 campaign, where he takes the government to task for either its unwillingness or its inability to communicate with people living in northern Ontario well in advance of any decision having been taken with regard to the proper use of the land mass we have in such abundance there.

I want to congratulate the Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell) for the initiatives he has taken, particularly with regard to the fields of telemedicine and medevac that will be brought to the people who live in the riding of Lake Nipigon and some of those smaller communities who cannot have the complete health delivery systems available in the more populated areas of Ontario.

He is taking certain initiatives, but one of the prime concerns he has failed to address is that, while we realize we cannot have sophisticated delivery of medical services throughout Ontario, at least we should have equality of opportunity to share in health services, something we are not getting at the present time because of geography, sparsity of population and distance.

We in northern Ontario have felt for a long time that legitimate travel to essential medical services should be a legitimate charge against the Ontario health insurance plan. If I had more time, I would be able to give the minister convincing and compelling reasons why this government should make that a matter of policy.

Another thing that concerns everybody living in northern Ontario, certainly those living north of the fiftieth parallel, is the high cost of transportation. Again, if I had the time, I would document very clearly the representations I have made on behalf of all those people living north of the fiftieth parallel who have access to the outside world only by air, a very inefficient and expensive means of transporting goods and people.

I have a commitment from the Premier that

he is agonizing and rubbing his hands furiously, in consultation with all his colleagues, trying to come up with a solution to this. In answer to a very verbose, long and complex question I posed to him in this House, for which I was berated, he again gave me an assurance that he would be consulting with his federal counterparts to address this serious and important problem. I have seen no evidence they are any closer to a solution to the problem now than they were when I first raised it several years ago. That is another promise we expect this government to keep.

Another point I wanted to raise, simply because it was a definite promise by the Premier, by the former member for Cochrane North, Mr. Brunelle, when he was the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development, and by the Minister of Northern Affairs is an amendment to the Canada-Ontario land agreement of 1924 that would assist native people living in the far north so they could share in the financial benefits of resource extraction there.

The former member for Cochrane North, the Minister for Northern Affairs and the Premier have all said this is a very worthwhile undertaking. Again, if I had the time, I could document letters I have received from the Premier dating back to October 3, 1979, right up to my most recent communication from him. They all agreed that it is something worthwhile pursuing and that they were doing so diligently. Unfortunately, nothing useful or productive has emanated from all that hand-wringing and all the pious platitudes I have received from them over these many years.

Another thing that is worth while mentioning in the brief period of time available to me is the provision of infrastructure, an economic base for many of the communities in northern Ontario that are without it at the present time, by the orderly exploitation of our peat resources. Again, if I had the time, I could quote a letter that was sent by the Minister of Energy (Mr. Welch) to me in June 1980 indicating that this was seen as a viable alternative to traditional energy sources and that it would be pursued with the greatest of vigour. Just last week I received another response from the newly appointed Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) indicating they had not had sufficient time to formulate a policy for the orderly exploitation of peat.

I want to show members some peat moss deposits from selected areas in Ontario, to indicate that people have been looking at and conducting an inventory of our peat resources in a very systematic way as far back as 1975. We are in our fifth year, yet within the last week I got a letter from the Minister of Natural Resources saying they really do not have any up-to-date data and as soon as they have some they will be formulating a policy. That is another indication that we think was tantamount to a promise, and we want to see that promise kept.

In another area, as a result of Bill 44, which was introduced in this Legislature in 1968, I believe, where there was a consolidation of school boards in the province, there was a commitment, which has been echoed on many occasions in this House and elsewhere since, that there would be equal opportunity in education for all students in the province regardless of where they resided.

If I had the time, I could give specifics of the problems facing some of those isolated boards in northern Ontario. In one jurisdiction we have four high schools where the combined population is less than 800 students. Because of the costs of duplication, many of those students are not even getting the core curriculum. That, in my view, is not equality of educational opportunity.

Perhaps I will have an opportunity, along with many of my colleagues who are concerned about these matters in northern Ontario, to discuss them in greater detail during the budget debate. I think I have highlighted just a few of the things, in terms of the commitment by this government to keep the promise, where that to date has not been the case. I am going to pursue them with all the vigour I can muster.

I hope that there will be sufficient financial resources—the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) was here a little bit earlier—so this government can address itself to the many varied and pressing problems in northern Ontario. That was my commitment to my constituents who sent me down here. It is a commitment I intend to keep, and I am going to pursue it with all the vigour I can muster at every opportunity made available to me in this House.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

CONTENTS

Tuesday May 11, 1981

Estimates, transmitted, the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor. 581

Comments by minister, point of privilege, Mr. Timbrell. 581

Statements by the ministry

Baetz, Hon. R. C., Minister of Culture and Recreation:

John Fisher papers. 581

Walker, Hon. G. W., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Provincial Secretary for Justice:

Professional boxing. 581

McMurtry, Hon. R. R., Attorney General and Solicitor General:

Ontario Fire Code. 582

Background information, comments, Mr. Cooke, Mr. Grossman, Mr. Smith. 583

Oral questions

Bennett, Hon. C. F., Minister of Housing:

Real estate company merger, Mr. Cassidy. 586

Canada Homes, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Roy. 587

Davis, Hon. W. G., Premier:

Energy conservation, Mr. J. A. Reed. 589

Miller, Hon. F. S., Treasurer and Minister of Economics:

Pensions, Mr. McClellan, Mr. Peterson. 594

Norton, Hon. K. C., Minister of the Environment:

Hooker Chemicals dump, Mr. Kerrio. 593

Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities:

Nursing applications, Mr. Smith, Mr. Philip, Mr. Sweeney. 585

Film production courses, Mr. Boudria, Mr. Cassidy. 595

Timbrell, Hon. D. R., Minister of Health:

Nursing home information, Mr. Smith, Mr. Cooke, Mr. Newman. 583

Urea-formaldehyde foam insulation, Mr. Swart, Mr. Nixon. 590

Walker, Hon. G. W., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Provincial Secretary for Justice:

Travel fund, Mr. Mackenzie, Mr. T. P. Reid. 592

Welch, Hon. R. S., Minister of Energy:

Rural electricity rates, Mr. Riddell, Mr. Wildman. 591

Motions

House sitting, Mr. Wells. 595

Select committee on the Ombudsman, Mr. Wells. 595

First readings

Fire Marshals Amendment Act, Bill 59, Mr. McMurtry. 596
Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, Bill 60, Mr. Philip. 596
Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, Bill 61, Mr. Philip. 596
Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, Bill 62, Mr. Philip. 596
Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, Bill 63, Mr. Philip. 596
Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, Bill 64, Mr. Philip. 596
Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, Bill 65, Mr. Philip. 596
Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, Bill 66, Mr. Philip. 596

Answer to question on Notice Paper, tabled, Mr. Wells. 597
Time for windup speeches, Mr. Wells. 597

Throne speech debate

Mr. Barlow. 597
Mr. Epp. 601
Mr. Renwick. 605
Mr. McNeil. 610
Mr. G. I. Miller. 615
Mr. Stokes. 617
Recess. 620

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Baetz, Hon. R. C.; Minister of Culture and Recreation (Ottawa West PC)
Barlow, W. W. (Cambridge PC)
Bennett, Hon. C. F.; Minister of Housing (Ottawa South PC)
Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
Copps, S. M. (Hamilton Centre L)
Davis, Hon. W. G.; Premier (Brampton PC)
Epp, H. A. (Waterloo North L)
Grossman, Hon. L. S.; Minister of Industry and Tourism (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
Kerrio, V. G. (Niagara Falls L)
Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)
McCague, Hon. G. R.; Chairman, Management Board of Cabinet (Dufferin-Simcoe PC)
McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
McMurtry, Hon. R. R.; Attorney General and Solicitor General (Eglinton PC)
McNeil, R. K. (Elgin PC)
Miller, Hon. F. S.; Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics (Muskoka PC)
Miller, G. I. (Haldimand-Norfolk L)
Newman, B. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
Norton, Hon. K. C.; Minister of the Environment (Kingston and the Islands PC)
Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)
Reed, J. A. (Halton-Burlington L)
Reid, T. P. (Rainy River L-Lab.)
Renwick, J. A. (Riverdale NDP)
Riddell, J. K. (Huron-Middlesex L)
Roy, A. J. (Ottawa East L)
Sargent, E. C. (Grey-Bruce L)

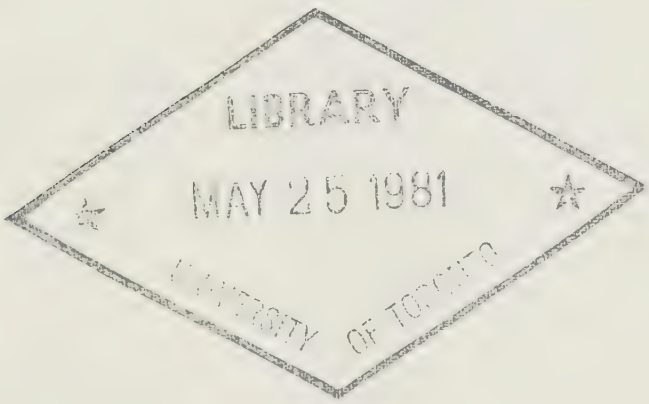
Smith, S. L. (Hamilton West L)
Stephenson, Hon. B. M.; Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities (York Mills PC)
Stokes, J. E. (Lake Nipigon NDP)
Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, J. (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
Timbrell, Hon. D. R.; Minister of Health (Don Mills PC)
Turner, Hon. J. M.; Speaker (Peterborough PC)
Walker, Hon. G. W.; Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Provincial Secretary for Justice (London South PC)
Watson, A. N. (Chatham-Kent PC)
Welch, Hon. R. S.; Minister of Energy (Brock PC)
Wells, Hon. T. L.; Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Scarborough North PC)
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)

Ontario

No. 18

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



First Session, Thirty-Second Parliament
Tuesday, May 12, 1981
Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

CONTENTS

Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.

Hansard subscription price is $15.00 per session, from: Sessional Subscription Service, Central Purchasing Service, Print Procurement Section, Ministry of Government Services, 8th Floor, Ferguson Block, Parliament Buildings, Toronto M7A 1N3. Phone (416) 965-2238.

Published by the Legislature of the Province of Ontario.
Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan.

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, May 12, 1981

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE
(concluded)

Resuming the debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, let me begin by joining those who have already congratulated the Speaker on taking a chair which, in my opinion, is the most important in the Legislature. It is a difficult task. As I have said to the Speaker, the one thing all sides of the House ask for is his total and complete independence, because without that it is equally bad for all sides of the House.

I say to the Speaker we ask that of him. That is what we got from the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) who, by the way, showed me the geometric definition of a straight line; that is, the shortest distance between two points. On more than one occasion Mr. Speaker showed me it was from my seat here to out there. Despite that—

Mr. Nixon: Very warranted it was too.

Mr. Martel: Well, it might have been warranted, but he showed that he was prepared to do it to his colleagues, and that is what we ask of a Speaker. If that is the case, I am sure Mr. Speaker will enjoy the support of the House.

I remember talking to Mr. Speaker Jerome when he occupied the chair in Ottawa. He indicated to me that the Speaker should bend over on behalf of the opposition, because the government has everything else at its beck and call.

Mr. Nixon: But the opposition party made him a judge.

Mr. Martel: That is right, but the Speaker in Ottawa knew that everything was heavily weighted in favour of the government, and although he riled his colleagues on occasion he bent over to accommodate the opposition.

I want to talk about the election only briefly, because I want to say they took that fellow who occupies chair number eight, the Premier (Mr. Davis), and they packaged him. They sent 20 advance men to make sure everything was right: Bill serving breakfast to the people; Bill, apple pie and mom; Bill draping himself in the flag—it was all there. That is not the Bill Davis I know, who is like a calculator; he calculates everything in votes.

He came to Sudbury on three occasions. He rode his white charger into Sudbury, and I was not sure when the white charger left whether the droppings had come from the Premier or the white charger, because there was $250,000 here and $100,000 there and $300,000 there and $1 million here in the most perverse spending of money I have ever seen. It was the most perverse way of utilizing public funds in the middle of a campaign that I have seen in my 14 years in this Legislature.

But it even went further than that. Prior to the campaign a questionnaire was sent out of the Premier's office to find out the opinions of the people of Ontario, and during the campaign a phone call was made from Progressive Conservative headquarters to all of those people who received the questionnaire just to find out if they would support the PCs. That was a perverse use of the number one office in this province.

The Premier was in Sudbury while the Canadian Union of Public Employees strike was on. In a heated debate he had with a CUPE worker he denied vehemently that doctors have the right to strike in Ontario. I have never been able to understand why the government is prepared to allow the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) to go after CUPE workers when it would not charge the striking interns in the 10 teaching hospitals in November and December. The Attorney General can lay charges against only the most vulnerable people in the health system. The Premier says that doctors do not have the right to strike, but they did strike and no charges were laid. There is something perverse about that. The Premier is found wanting.

Then there was the jingle, "Help keep the promise." He came to Sudbury in 1975 to speak on behalf of the late Joe Fabbro and said, "We are going to have a Workmen's Compensation Board rehabilitation centre in Sudbury." I won-

der what happened to that promise. He went to Parry Sound and promised a rail link from Parry Sound to a port on Lake Nipissing. I wonder what happened to that promise.

Then in 1977 he promised two trees for one. We remember that one well. When in the Legislature I moved the amendment about two trees for one for the Premier because his colleagues would not, he said, "Certainly." But a memo was sent from Mr. Obelnycki, the solicitor for the Ministry of Natural Resources, to the then Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. F. S. Miller) which said, "The amendment proposed by the member for Sudbury East also has implications that are simply absurd." They might be absurd, but it was the Premier in 1977 who promised two trees for one. We are still waiting. If Davis can keep the promise, he should start with some of those promises.

But the thing I found most offensive during the campaign, was his attitude to francophone rights. Section 133 of the British North America Act guarantees what is already in existence in the province, the language rights in the courts and schools. But a poll was taken on January 8 by Goldfarb Consultants, who are very astute in these matters. On the front page of the Toronto Star, the following was reported: "Goldfarb attributes part of Davis' rise in popularity to his opposition to entrenching French language rights in the constitution. Davis clearly understands the mood of the public and this has brought him back."

As a francophone I find that reprehensible. If that was not enough, in the first speech the Premier made in Ottawa after the election was called he reminded Ontario that he would not entrench section 133 of the BNA Act in the constitution at this time. That is reprehensible. The Premier knew exactly the game he was playing. Goldfarb identified the issue that brought the Premier back. The Premier stands condemned, and when historians write of him they will find him wanting. They will not treat him well, I guarantee you.

8:10 p.m.

I recall being in British Columbia with my friend, the House leader for the Liberal Party. You should talk to the parliamentarians from across the rest of Canada, Mr. Speaker. It would just blow your mind how they resent Ontario. I had been at a parliamentary conference in 1971, and the next one was in 1980. The resentment of Ontario by the rest of Canada is unimaginable. You cannot believe it until you are there.

And the Premier could have contributed in a statesmanlike way to bringing national unity. He could have made a contribution. The Premier says everyone else should give a little for national unity, but he is not prepared to give a thing. That is the way the rest of Canada looks at it, and he will be remembered for it.

Then there is the new member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon). I cannot start without talking about the new member for Sudbury. The Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Grossman) said the other day it was the most honest speech he had heard from a member for Sudbury for a long time. At least Bud Germa told you what he believed.

I suggested to the new member for Sudbury the other day that he might want to second my bill on purchasing Inco. He declined that offer, but let me tell the House what he said in Sudbury on December 10, 1980. He said he agreed with the Ontario public opinion poll showing widespread support for government ownership of the mining industry. We are dealing with diminishing resources. Canadians and Sudburians realize that there has to be more equity, more of a share, that the public through the government has to have some ownership. And when I gave him an opportunity to second a bill, he declined. I want to tell the member that he cannot say it in Sudbury and expect that it is not going to catch up with him.

By the way, I have rented two booths in Sudbury, one at the Canadian Pacific Railway station and one at the Canadian National Railways station—they say you have to have a government member; Sudbury has an Ontario government member now in the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon) and a federal government member in Judy Erola, the Minister of State for Mines—I have rented booths at both stations to watch all the jobs and all the secondary industries that are going to come into Sudbury.

I can hardly wait, and that is why I have rented these two booths: so I will be there to watch them come in. Three years from now with respect to the federal government and four years from now with respect to the provincial government there will not be an extra job. The Duke of Chatham-Kent, Darcy McKeough, said it well just four years ago. He said secondary industry will not come to northern Ontario for at least another 20 years.

An hon. member: Well, we are going to change that.

Mr. Martel: We will see. I can hardly wait. That is why I have rented the booths—to watch them come in by the trainload.

I want to turn, if I might, to the throne speech and to BILD. The throne speech says, "Our continuing vitality holds no little credit to the foresight and planning of past years, which have provided the firm economic and social foundation of Ontario today." I want to know where the Tories were when Ontario happened to be located geographically in the heartland of the industrial American economy. That is what has given us any success we have had: we happen to be located geographically in the right place, no thanks to what the Tories have done.

To talk about what they have done with our resources almost blows my mind. Let me tell you what has happened to resources, Mr. Speaker. In 1979, on $2.274 billion worth of production in mineral resources, Ontario got $43 million—a magnificent sum.

Saskatchewan got $187 million returned on $1 billion worth of mineral production without counting oil and gas. That is 18 per cent; Ontario got 1.94 per cent.

Mr. Foulds: We have nickel here.

Mr. Martel: We have nickel and we have blown it.

Look at what Japan has done without a resource. Without one resource Japan is one of the most successful countries in the world economically. Canada and Ontario, the third largest producer of mineral wealth, is having one hell of a time to survive. It tells what Ontario has done with its natural resources. It has frittered them away. It has shipped them out for someone else to utilize. We are in trouble.

It then goes on, "The BILD program, as it is called, is a coherent and prudent plan for Ontario and one which is in accordance with the objectives and scope of the government's ongoing fiscal strategy."

Let me tell the members, if the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program is going to do anything for Ontario I want to know what it is. Last year we had roughly $150 million in a program called the employment development fund. We are going to contribute one per cent of our budget towards creating a sound economy—one per cent more.

With that one per cent look what we are going to do. We are going to solve the problems of our ailing auto industry; make Ontario a world leader in microelectronics; electrify GO Transit; rebuild our food processing sector; reclaim lost agricultural land; explore and develop new mines and create mineral refining; all with one per cent of the budget or $150 million that was recycled from last year's budget.

It goes on. The list is endless. The question then remains, if it is only one per cent and that is all it is going to take, why did we let it deteriorate in the first place? Why would we let it deteriorate in the first place? If the answer is, "Yes, this program can do it," then the government stands condemned for allowing it to fall.

But the answer really is that the government refuses to deal with the real problem confronting Ontario, and that is foreign control. BILD does not even earmark the funds with which to build at least one sector of our economy. It is out to lunch, like the government.

Let me give three examples. In fact, let me go back for a moment. There was an interesting quote by Hugh Winsor during the election. He said if Ontario, with one per cent, is going to do what it is going to do, it will be an act to rival the loaves and fishes miracle at Galilee. That is about what they are trying to get us to believe they are going to do with one per cent of the budget.

Let us look at BILD. I only want to look at three sectors. One can look at them all and they are all lousy. But they are going to "stimulate the necessary capital expansion in products such as canned peaches, tomato paste, specialty meat products" and so on. What they are going to do with that one per cent goes on and on.

Is it not strange that little Bill and his cabinet watched the demise of 500 processing plants and over 600 food processing jobs since 1970? Where were they? At the same time 93,000 acres of agricultural land went out of production. Where were they? Now we are going to rebuild it. Why did they let it disintegrate in the first place?

Look at the next one: "Comprehensive forest management: To achieve this the province will accelerate its program to ensure that all forest management units are harvested and regenerated on a sustained yield basis."

That is interesting. You will recall that in 1977 little Bill ran around the province promising two trees for one. Let me quote from the Minister of Natural Resources in 1980. He said, "Nevertheless, out of 195,000 hectares cut annually, we are as yet only able to treat 80,000 hectares." That is 41 per cent.

8:20 p.m.

Where has the government been? Why did they allow it to disintegrate? Now they have to pump money in again to rebuild it. Why did they allow it to disintegrate? Where was little Bill and his bandwagon?

If we go on a little further with BILD, Bill is

going to rebuild our economy. Is that not nice of him? He says, with respect to expanding resource machinery and equipment capacity, "As a result, import penetration for resource machinery has risen to more than 60 per cent of the Canadian market."

The Premier did not put the correct figures in there. Seventy-three per cent of underground equipment is imported. Where is he? He has been Premier since 1971. Why is he now going to rebuild? The question is: Why did he allow that to happen?

There was a report of the select committee on economic and cultural nationalism in 1973 that said we have to get involved in the production of mining equipment. The Premier is going to do it with one per cent of the budget. The latest convert is Larry the Lip. Just nine months ago, in response to my colleague the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren), when my colleague was expounding the theory that we had to produce mining equipment, the Minister of Industry and Tourism said, "I do not think the solution to the mining machinery problem is the kind that he has proposed on earlier occasions, that the government go into the industry."

In the BILD program, what does Larry the Lip say? He says, "Direct equity investment in existing machinery companies." It is like a deathbed repentance. We are now going to get involved in it. Nine months ago he said: "To hell with it. You are wrong. We cannot get involved." But for an election he is going to pump some money into it. Is that not magnanimous?

Do the members know what the government is going to do? They are going to create an advisory board in Sudbury to look into it. Oh, I want to tell you, in 1973 we recommended it through a select committee of this Legislature. In 1981, they finally recognize it and they are going to establish an advisory board. Well, boy, are we making progress. We are really moving.

Where were the Premier and the boys when all these things were happening? He was Premier those eight years, I remind the honourable members. Now we are going to spend money to rebuild what he allowed to deteriorate. I could go through the rest because, if one looks at the Brampton charter, there is not one item in the Brampton charter that was achieved totally as he promised it in 1977.

The BILD program reminds me of that jingle of Brylcreem, "A little dab will do you," and that is what we are going to have, a little dab here and a little dab there. When we are finished absolutely nothing will be achieved.

Mr. Piché: Give it a chance first.

Mr. Martel: Chance? If the honourable member thinks a little cosmetics is going to deal with the root problem of Ontario, he is crazy. There was a select committee report in 1974 that said, "Canadian economic policies should promote foreign portfolio investment and discourage foreign direct investment."

Let me tell the members who signed that report. Where is my friend the member for York West (Mr. Leluk)? He signed it. So did the member for London South (Mr. Walker). He is not here. So did Russell Rowe and the member for Mississauga South (Mr. Kennedy). He is around. They said the root problem is direct foreign investment and the Minister of Industry and Tourism will take any kind of investment. But the select committee that studied it for four years said "No, we have to change the solution and it is more portfolio and less direct."

But I want to tell the members the minister will take anything. What it does is perpetuate Ontario's problem of being a branch plant economy with inadequate research and development, with manufacturing primarily for the Canadian market, with no competition to the parent company for export, which creates high costs of production, which can't compete for export markets, and which has service costs in Canada this year—that's for charges because of that American domination—of $11.8 billion. This certainly creates part of our problem with high interest rates and leads to the most recent phenomenon, which is plant shutdowns.

I want to tell that the problem with plant shutdowns is not going to go away. There were 68 last year. There are already 33 this year and the problem will continue to escalate, particularly with respect to the fact that the tariff agreement signed by the federal government will make it impossible or not necessary for those companies to operate in Ontario.

Let me just quote from one of the articles that came before the select committee on plant shutdowns. It's by a man by the name of Crookel, director of the Centre for International Business Studies, School of Business Administration: "It will be the first time since tariff protection was introduced that the level of tariffs across a wide spectrum of goods will be less than the difference in the cost of production between Canada and the United States." Do you know what that means for us? There is absolutely no necessity for a multinational to have a branch plant in Canada.

So, when I raised it before the select committee, there was a Mr. Hill from the Ministry of

Industry and Tourism and I said to him: "What is going to happen now that the tariff agreement is there and in fact there is no necessity to produce here? What do you think might happen?

He said: "In terms of massive numbers, our understanding is perhaps 2,000 branch plants will close." Two thousand out of 13,000. That bodes well for Ontario, doesn't it? And we have some little tinkering in the throne speech with one per cent of the budget, when in fact by the year 1988 we could see 2,000 companies leave Ontario. That bodes well for Ontario; and the little tinkering that our friend the Minister of Industry and Tourism is prepared to do won't change a thing.

What the select committee found out was that these plants shut down for a number of reasons. They can make more money if they go back to the United States and ship into Canada from offshore. They learned that from the Japanese.

We also found out that these companies didn't take into consideration or ask for input from the Canadian directors or management as to what they should do. In fact, in many instances, they didn't even talk to the Canadian managers of the subsidiaries. They just closed the door. They had no concern for the workers or the community and had no concern as to what the social costs were to society.

I will quote what the minister said, in answer to a question from my leader last week. When my leader said: "Given the strong evidence that this shutdown and loss of jobs were unnecessary, what action does the minister intend to take in order to keep those jobs in Ontario?" He was talking about Harlequin Enterprises Limited.

This is what the minister's answer was: "I will be pleased to look into that but, as the member well knows, this government is not in the business of declaring, as he is, that a certain plant closure or a decision by a company to close down operations, is not justified. We are not in that business."

Let us look at what happened in Oshawa as one example. When the nine plants, multinationals, closed in Oshawa, the direct costs around Oshawa were $21 million in income to that municipality. The multiplier effect, according to the mayor of Oshawa, was that it would be double that.

He then went on to indicate that the public utilities loss on Houdaille alone was $900,000, sewer and water services revenue lost would be $250,000, and at Firestone in Whitby the loss of income would be $100,000. The accumulation of tax revenues from those companies closing down was $490,000. Welfare would go up to $3 million. That is just in the municipality of Oshawa when companies are not asked to justify why they are closing down. The Minister of Industry and Tourism says, "We are not in that business."

8:30 p.m.

Then there is the province's share in OHIP costs. All the studies indicate that in a time of layoffs there is an increase in mental breakdowns, more utilization of health services, more necessity to enforce the law, more alcoholism, and so on. There is also the province's share towards not only general welfare, but family benefits as well.

Then there is the loss to workers and their families, the loss of homes, the suffering, the illness, and the list goes on. The federal government pays in UIC benefits, and in relocation costs. The costs are astronomical, but the minister tells us the province is not involved in ascertaining whether the shutdowns were legitimate.

I tell the Premier, that is not acceptable. The costs to society of shutdowns are astronomical. They are astronomical to the province, to the municipalities, to the federal government, to the workers and their families, and that is not good enough.

When the minister goes on to say, as he did in his statement, that in most countries the experience is that they do not get involved in that, he is wrong. He is misleading the House. In fact, outside the United States, whether in Europe, Mexico, or South America, they insist on some justification. There are all kinds of laws that insist the companies come before some sort of body to justify shutdowns. There have to be; the social costs are too great. To simply watch companies walk away is not acceptable, I hope not even to the Premier. That answer from the minister was irresponsible.

Let me just go on to say there is something that bothers me, that the province is hanging its hat on global product mandating. If we are going to get involved in import replacement, as we talk about doing, that means more manufacturing in Ontario of those goods we are presently importing. There is going to be government involvement, unless companies are prepared to do it. There is no other way.

But we are not prepared to do that. The minister responsible for industry dismisses all this. He is not prepared to deal with the

structural weaknesses. My God, there have been studies. The Premier himself instituted a select committee on economic and cultural nationalism. Twenty-one reports and none of them have been acted on, except one little brave bit when I think we said 50 per cent of the directors had to be Canadian. That was really meaningless. The other recommendations were much more meaningful.

Import replacement means manufacturing. If industry has not been prepared to locate in Ontario up to the present, to manufacture in Ontario, why is it now going to do so with the latest GATT agreement? If we use the minister's own book—remember that egg-crated book he sent out?—it gives corporate income tax as a percentage of book profits from manufacturing companies for 1978 in Ontario as 31.9, in Texas as 37.6, in Ohio as 41.3, and in New York as 43.1. With those figures, why did they not come here in mass numbers?

If we look at wages on a US dollar basis, Ontario unit labour costs fell by 4.3 in 1978, but they climbed by seven per cent in the United States. We were not able to induce them to come to those types of conditions. Yet, we now expect with the latest General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to be able to induce them. What is it that is going to make GATT and global product mandating so attractive today, when in fact they can produce cheaper now with the GATT agreement coming into effect? Well, it is not cheaper, but at least in a sense it is cheaper with the tariff wall removed.

Hon. Mr. Davis: GATT isn't cheaper; GATT has nothing to do with production costs.

Mr. Martel: Oh yes it is. I am glad the Premier said that because I want to go back for the Premier and indicate what Harold Crookel, director of the Centre for International Business Studies says. "It will be the first time since tariff protection was introduced that the level of tariffs across a wide spectrum of goods will be less than the difference in the cost of production between Canada and the United States."

Now that barrier is gone, the exodus of companies is going to escalate. In fact, the minister's own staff say there is a possibility of 2,000 companies going back. What is going to induce those companies to stay here, or come here? I don't know, I really don't. Unless they want to—as I said earlier in a speech some time ago—when we finally run out of resources, give away money. We force it into their pocket and say, "Here, take it anyway," even though the industry says, "We don't need it."

I want to tell members that I carefully read the report of the advisory committee on global product mandating. I read it very carefully.

In this report they give the reasons why multinationals come to Canada. "For many multinational affiliates in Canada this will mean a continuing shift away from the traditional branch plant form of operation which evolved primarily in response to high tariffs. Typically such plants manufactured a wide range of products solely or primarily for Canadian domestic market. The small size of the Canadian market and the high tariffs abroad have generally prevented these organizations from achieving economies of scale."

I guess this is so, because these companies decided that the branch plant in Canada would only produce for Canada and they wouldn't get into the export market. What is going to change that? Nothing. This whole report and what the government is basing its hopes on is that global product mandating will fill a void. With 2,000 companies that could leave in the next eight years, I don't know how that could be. I am telling them the super salesman who used to be here, Stanley Randall, couldn't super sale his way through this one. For the Minister of Industry and Tourism to try it is just irresponsible.

Let me tell members what else bothers me about this report that is supposed to justify global product mandating. "They have access to and ability to transfer technology." He is talking about the multinationals. They have always had that. They have deemed it in their best interests to continue to do research in the United States. When we do in fact get something here, they charge us very dearly, as I have shown. The service charges this year to Canada will be over $11 billion.

They then go on to say, "They have access to or potential access to international markets." They have always had that. In fact what the multinationals in Canada have done, with the branch plant economy, is simply produce for the Canadian market. They don't want competition from a company in Ontario. So what is going to change it?

Then they say finally, "They have the potential for rationalization or manufacturing specialization." Well, they rationalized. We saw in the select committee that they rationalized to death. In fact, they rationalized to such an extent that they decided it was time to go back to the United States, they could make more money there.

They also rationalized that since the Japanese knew it was better to ship into a foreign country from their shores to create jobs for their people, it was better if they produced in Japan. The Americans now have eight or nine million people unemployed. The new fellow down there, President Reagan, isn't going to change anything because the Americans have been the greatest protectionists since the turn of the century for American interests.

I want to know what it is in global product mandating that is going to work. There is nothing. Then they have to earn a mission. The report says you have to earn a mission. What in fact they have to do is prove to the multinational in the United States that they have a product which they can sell. Except, that when we looked at Essex International we found they didn't even consult with the Canadian firm when they decided to close down; they simply decided it was time to close down.

8:40 p.m.

If one looks at McDonnell Douglas—I understand the Premier has been to St. Louis to talk to them—the contracts were released without the McDonnell Douglas operation in Ontario even being consulted by the parent company, which simply said, "Whoever can produce it cheaper; and if it costs jobs in Ontario, so what?"

Hon. Mr. Davis: That is not true either.

Mr. Martel: That is not what the president said to us. I defy the Premier to read in Hansard what the president of McDonnell Douglas in Ontario said when he was before us. He said they were not even consulted. If the Premier thinks he can go on a mission with that sort of attitude adopted by the parent company in the United States, he is whistling in the dark.

One thing in this report that bothers me is the not so veiled threat that "the most effective way to achieve these objectives is to emphasize performance rather than ownership." Ownership is the problem in Ontario, and the select committee said that in 1973. Then they threaten us with, "Government policies of statement for greater Canadian ownership and possible nationalization without regard to performance are understandably a serious deterrent to further investment."

It goes on, "We question the usefulness of government efforts to designate certain sectors to support." That is really telling us what we should do. If the government wants to put all its eggs in this basket of global product mandating, it is really inviting disaster.

I looked at the number of crown corporations the Premier and his predecessors have given Ontario. There are at present 22 and I believe the Premier, as a result of the election campaign, is going to create 12 more, which will make it 34. But Saskatchewan has only 18 crown corporations. The government goes around waving its finger at us, the Socialists who would create crown corporations, but it had better look at its own record.

But if there is one area in which we should establish a crown corporation—and I am glad the member for Sudbury is now here because he supports it—it is in the resource sector. The rest of the Tories might not support it, but the member for Sudbury supports takeover of the resource sector. He is with us, and I am glad to see that.

A select committee on which many of the cabinet sat said the government should be empowered to take up to 50 per cent of the equity in new ventures in the nonrenewable natural resource sector. That is the first step towards getting control of the resources. Look at Japan, without resources, and what they have done. Then look at Ontario and our abundance of resources which we have frittered away.

The government's policies make no sense. Two years ago there was one to allow Falconbridge to write off the cost of refining in Norway through Ontario profits. There is something totally insane about that, because it means we will never get refining in the Sudbury basin. That is the first step towards using those resources to produce an economy that is sound and includes not only refining but manufacturing as well.

We cannot use it all—I recognize we have to sell some of it to other countries—but we have to use our resources as a source of strength. Our return in manufacturing dollars is nil. Yet look at what Switzerland and Japan have done without resources. We have an abundance, but we have done nothing with it except to give it away.

The next thing we have to do is to reduce direct foreign investment. The select committee recommended that too. It said we had to have more manufacturing, but must encourage portfolio investment rather than direct foreign investment.

We also need to have import replacement. The manufacture of mining equipment is a good example of that. After eight years of recommending the production of mining equipment, we need more than an advisory board to create these kinds of jobs. We must move. There is a $1.5 billion trade deficit annually.

Finally, we have to deal with government procurement. Those are just some of the ways we could move.

The Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program does not do it on the money that is there; the throne speech does nothing to do it, because it deals in cosmetics and it is not going to work. The Premier recognized in 1971, when he established that select committee, that unless we are prepared now to take those drastic actions—and I think most of those recommendations are still valid, those on farm land and everything else that was there—to overcome the weakest link, as Professor Britton would say, and that is foreign domination, then 10 years from now we might well still be here arguing the same point.

I would urge the Premier to set some cabinet minister up to look at those recommendations so that we might start to institute some of them and have a sound economy based on resources.

For those reasons I cannot support the throne speech.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I would first like to take the opportunity, as I know all members of the Legislature have, to congratulate you on being chosen as the Speaker of this assembly.

The role of the Speaker, it seems to me as an individual member of this assembly, increases in importance as a majority government is implemented in Ontario through the choice of the voters on March 19. It is said that there is a real challenge for a Speaker. The former Speaker, the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), handled that office with a good deal of excellence. I think most of the assembly—indeed, all members—would concede that he was a man who was very distinguished in that office and certainly lent to the Legislature a lot of decorum, a degree of independence that has not been seen in a good many years, and the kind of fairness that is necessary to allow this Legislature to operate as we in the democratic system feel it should.

So I commend him, as I commend the new Speaker of the Ontario Legislature; and I say that in the majority situation, where we have 70 government members as opposed to 55 opposition members, it is important that the opposition members—and indeed, to a certain extent the individual back-bench members of the government side—have the opportunity to participate in the debates to the greatest extent.

It seems to me that in a situation where the Speaker may rule one way or the other it would be wise for him to come down on the side of the democratic system, to come down on the side of allowing the full participation of members of the opposition particularly, in a situation where the government, through the votes that it holds in the Legislature, has the opportunity to see its will fulfilled.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: The way it used to be.

Mr. Bradley: As the member says, the way it used to be.

I think there is also an opportunity to congratulate all members of the Legislature who have been returned, and most particularly those who grace the benches of the Ontario Legislature for the first time.

I notice with a good deal of interest the degree of independence that was shown by the new members of the Ontario Legislature on the government side in the justice committee last Thursday.

I recognize that when government backbenchers are first elected to public office, when they first sit in the back benches on the government side, they are keeping in mind at all times that they would like to move down to the second and first rows. They are keeping in mind that there are certain privileges that come with being on the government side. Some of those are monetary, of course, because we recognize that when one is a parliamentary assistant or when one is a cabinet minister or holds one of the other special privileged positions that belong to those on the government side it is very unwise to rock the boat.

I recall that the member for Simcoe Centre (Mr. G. W. Taylor), who showed a degree of independence over his first term in the Ontario Legislature, has not been elevated to a very high position. Indeed, on many occasions he used to rise in the back benches of the Legislature and ask some rather embarrassing questions of the ministers—not those questions that are rehearsed at caucus, not those questions for which the member has been warned, but questions that were genuinely his own concern and the concern of those whom he represented in Barrie.

I commend him on that and I set him up as an example for those who sit on the back benches at the present time. We in the opposition look forward to having individual members in the back benches play that independent role, whereby they are speaking for all the constituents they represent and not just for those who voted for them in the last provincial election.

8:50 p.m.

I commend them on their election to the Legislature and I look forward with some anticipation to their meeting the challenge of the independence of mind that can be shown, particularly in the committee system, if not in the Legislature itself, where they are under the watchful eye of their superiors in the front row.

I would like also, as is our opportunity to do in the Ontario Legislature, to thank the people of the provincial constituency of St. Catharines who were kind enough to return me to the Ontario Legislature. My colleagues on the Liberal benches used to refer to me in my first term as Landslide Bradley, as I managed to squeak into the Ontario Legislature with a huge plurality of some 722.

It seemed to me on that occasion there were not nearly so many cabinet ministers who were interested in coming into the riding as there were last time. This time we in St. Catharines were graced on at least two occasions with the presence of the Premier (Mr. Davis). I really felt that one more visit would have driven the plurality somewhere over the 7,000 mark. The Premier chose not to visit the riding one more time.

I also welcomed the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr. Wells) to assist the Progressive Conservative candidate. The Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Grossman) was another individual there and the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller). Indeed, evey time I turned around it seemed I ran into a Progressive Conservative minister in the riding to bolster the cause. Fortunately the people of the provincial constituency of St. Catharines did not see fit to buy the Board of Industrial Leadership Development program and package that was presented to them by the Progressive Conservative Party in this election.

I planned to talk a little bit about the way in which the campaign was conducted, because I think it is important immediately after the election in the throne speech debate to discuss the kind of campaign that was carried out.

I begin on a very conciliatory note by commending the Progressive Conservative candidate in St. Catharines, Mr. John Larocque, who conducted himself throughout the campaign as a gentleman. He was an individual who was not prepared to engage in the personal attacks which did characterize certain of the ridings. He was prepared to play fair throughout, as was the New Democratic Party candidate, Mr. Don Loucks. From the point of view of those of us in the provincial constituency of St. Catharines, we believe that many ridings in Ontario could learn the gentlemanly art of political practice as practised by the three candidates representing the parties.

On the campaign as a whole—because it is not conducted, as we agree, on a riding by riding basis alone—preceding the Ontario election, we in Ontario were subjected to a barrage of advertising which was unprecedented in terms of the dollars spent in the history of Ontario, particularly last spring, last summer, last fall and early into the new year.

Seldom could we turn on the radio or watch television without hearing the jingle, "Life is good, Ontario. Preserve it; conserve it," and members opposite had the audacity to suggest that it did not have a political overtone or a political connotation. We had the Ministry of the Environment ads telling us that Ontario was one of the cleanest places in the world because the government had done such an excellent job in cleaning it up. We had the Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell) on Hospital Day taking out large ads in the newspapers telling us what a great job he thought he was doing as the Minister of Health in this province in providing facilities for Ontario. We had the former Minister of Revenue talking about the grants to seniors program and telling us that it was because Ontario cares.

If these advertisements had been paid for by the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, that would have been legitimate. However, the taxpayers in this province, regardless of their political affiliation to the three major parties and those who have no particular political affiliation, were forced to pay for political advertising in the disguise of government programs being advertised or information being provided to the public of Ontario. Surely this is politically immoral conduct that could not be condoned, particularly by those in the back benches who are new to the partisan political game at least at the provincial level.

Hon. Mr. Davis: How about party polls conducted on telephones?

Mr. Bradley: The Premier reminds me of polls that were taken, the results of which had to be extracted—thanks to the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid) and thanks to the minority government situation—by public pressure and by political pressure in this House and in committees from that government. The government had for so long taken advantage of that information which was kept secret from the people on this side of the House and the people who paid for it, the people of Ontario. The

government had that to their advantage and, of course, once again used one of the levers of office to perpetuate themselves in power.

They also are in a situation—sorry, I did not hear the member for Middlesex.

Mr. Eaton: What is he making so many excuses for? He knows his leader blew it for him.

Mr. Bradley: The member for Middlesex, of course, would condone this kind of behaviour with the government using the taxpayers' funds to perpetuate itself in office, but we in the official opposition—and I am sure it is shared by the other opposition party—cannot believe that is moral conduct at the political level in this province.

We also had the usual expensive campaign conducted by a party which seems to be able to attract an endless amount of funding during the election campaign. We had the advertisements and the jingles that are a part of the Progressive Conservative campaign year after year.

One thing I must commend the members and the party opposite for is that their spending is at least good for the local economy because in most cases they outspent the candidates on this side on about a two to one basis. At least the local newspapers, media and print shops were able to derive some benefit from this and just a little bit of the difficult unemployment problem in Ontario is alleviated by that.

What we really need in the province—and this is demonstrated by the kind of spending that takes place by the government party—are further restrictions on the amount of money that can be spent in an election campaign so money does not determine who will be the government in this province.

It was also stated during the campaign that it would be advantageous to elect a government member. If we were to take this to its full extent, we would have 125 government members and no opposition. What we have to be careful of now, what we in the opposition have to be ever vigilant for, is the fact that the government might well now attempt to punish those who did not elect Progressive Conservative members or unduly reward those who did. We in the offical opposition will be watching very carefully to see that they do not conduct this kind of sleazy politics in this province.

9 p.m.

There has been some mention of the BILD program in Ontario. This was announced with much fanfare just before the campaign, of course, with a number of important people in the province brought to Toronto; the appropriately decorated room, the Premier and other cabinet ministers there to tell us what a great program it was going to be. At that time there was no particulary strong suggestion that there was going to be an election in the province, but any who were in doubts had those doubts withdrawn after that particular press conference.

We find out now, however, up to and including today—and the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) is reminding me that earlier today the Treasurer was asking the federal government for its participation in the BILD program. In other words, no mention was really made—certainly there was no emphasis on it—on federal participation in the BILD program, or on the municipal participation, or on the private sector participation in the BILD program.

What was emphasized during the campaign, of course, was provincial participation, and how—somehow—this program was going to solve the province's problems. We now find, after the election, as we get into the months of April and May, that these solutions are contingent upon money coming from the other levels of government and from the private sector, and that, indeed, these programs cannot be implemented without it.

I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that the government party was not being entirely honest with the people of Ontario when it introduced this program previous to the election, and talked about it during the campaign.

We also have a situation—the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon) is making a good deal of noise; perhaps he is a good example of what I want to talk about next. That is about those who are the political opportunists in the province.

One could suggest, with a good deal of validity, that had the federal Liberal Party approached the same candidate, the member who now sits for Sudbury, asking him to run, he would have been first in line to be a candidate because he wanted to sit on the government benches.

There are some, of course—in fact, there are many, as I look along the benches—the member for Wentworth (Mr. Dean), who might well have been attracted to—

Mr. T. P. Reid: Every second one of you.

Mr. Bradley: The member for St. George (Ms. Fish) is not a person whom I have known as a Progressive Conservative over the years.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order, Mr. Bradley has the floor.

Mr. Roy: It is called prostitution.

Mr. Bradley: The member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt), the member for Carleton East (Mr. MacQuarrie), all prepared to sacrifice principles to sit on the government side because they know that party has the financial wherewithal and the levers of power to get itself re-elected, and that is their best chance of sitting somewhere in the cabinet, or near it.

Where are the principles of those particular members?

Mr. Roy: It is called prostitution.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Fish was NDP. Say that Fish was NDP.

Mr. Bradley: The member for Rainy River reminds me that the member for St. George was once supposed to be a member of the New Democratic Party, and I look to their benches for an acknowledgement of that.

Of course, the chances are much better on the government side.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Mr. Bradley: There was another aspect of the campaign I would like to discuss that is somewhat less amusing to members on this side, and I am sure to members on that side. That is the kind of campaign that was conducted. I suppose the beginning was in the riding of Carleton.

We all remember a pamphlet. I was in Carleton at the time, observing what happened. I stopped at a booth at a shopping centre. One of the individuals who hangs around Queen's Park—I am not sure what his name is—was giving out the pamphlets at the time. One that looked particularly attractive was called "Building Canada." Of course, inside it had a photograph of the Premier with a very pensive look. He was probably at a federal-provincial conference. He had the pipe and a smile on his face.

One would say a pamphlet of this kind would talk about the role the Premier has played at federal-provincial conferences over the years, but I want to read a part of the pamphlet, which is somewhat disturbing to those who fear there might be those in Ontario who would touch that resentment which is supposed to be just below the surface, that resentment in Ontario of bilingualism and biculturalism.

Let me read from this pamphlet called Building Canada. It says: "For the last 10 years the Ontario Progressive Conservative government has fought for fundamental principles of importance to all Ontarians. They are"—and this is one of them—"avoiding another federal bilingual mistake. The Ontario Progressive Conservative government worked and negotiated hard to keep a revised section 133 that would make Ontario bilingual, what federal and provincial Liberals and New Democrats want, out of a new constitution. The success in doing so is due largely to the perserverance and hard work of Ontario's Premier."

This is in a pamphlet entitled, Building Canada.

The Premier of Ontario is characterized by his supporters and by his fellow members as a nation builder, as a person who has a great commitment to Canada, as a person who has played a significant role in federal-provincial conferences.

In many of his lectures to those of us on this side of the House, the Premier of Ontario has said, "You can't have it both ways." I am suggesting the Premier of Ontario cannot have it both ways. He cannot on one hand be characterized as an individual who is a nation builder, as an individual who is attempting to bring the people of this country together, and on the other hand be part of a campaign which seeks to set one part of this province against another in an election campaign.

The member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy), in his remarks in the Legislature before, indicated that while—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the members on this side of the House please let the member proceed with his speech?

9:10 p.m.

Mr. Bradley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While we have in one pamphlet the comment about avoiding another federal bilingual mistake and not imposing institutional bilingualism in Ontario, we have for the French-speaking people of Ontario the advertisement that says "It's easy" and talks about the number of services that are provided to the French-speaking population in the province.

I did not see any of these posters in my riding, and I do not think many of the members on this side saw them in their ridings.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Why didn't the member put them up?

Mr. Bradley: Were there some in his? He cannot have it both ways.

I want to move to an area that has become current once again and was somewhat significant before the campaign; that, of course, is the matter of Re-Mor and Astra Trust, and its history in Ontario and in this Legislature.

Members who sat in the Legislature last time will recall how the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) put every roadblock in front of this Legislature in an attempt to prevent members from investigating the matter of the collapse of Re-Mor, a company that was licensed by the provincial government just 13 days after C and M, a company controlled by the same person, was ordered wound down. The history of that, of course, is well known to the people of this province.

Only through the combined efforts of members of the opposition, who at that time formed the majority in this Legislature—and, I must say in fairness, ultimately a few of the members on the other side who managed to show some independence, and I particularly commend the member for Burlington South (Mr. Kerr) in that regard—only through that and the vehicle of a Speaker's warrant were members of the justice committee and members of this House able to have the documents that were necessary to carry out that particular investigation. This, of course, was one of the great advantages of minority government at that time, that the government could not arrogantly cast this aside or sweep it under the rug.

We all recall the famous night of December 4—I know the member for Carleton-Grenville (Mr. Sterling), who was the parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General at that time, will recall that night, as will the government House leader (Mr. Wells)—when a negotiated settlement brought about a situation where this matter was finally able to be discussed in committee in a proper fashion; but not until many threats had been used.

We had the comments of the Attorney General in different locations, "You people had better watch out, because you may be sorry that this matter came forward," and appealing to certain members of our caucus who are lawyers that, "Indeed, you are officers of the court and you should recognize that we should not deal with matters that are before the court" et cetera. Many of these tactics were used, most particularly by the Attorney General, to prevent a full investigation.

The committee conducted itself in a very responsible way, in my view, in dealing with those documents. I think that is a view that would be shared even by some members of the government party who sat on that committee and conducted themselves in a very responsible manner.

In its interim report the committee indicated certain conclusions had been reached, but it also indicated that it felt the investigation had not been completed and it would be useful to continue that investigation. There were certainly indications of incompetence that had taken place, some concessions of incompetence in terms of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations and perhaps in the agency known as the Ontario Securities Commission.

There were some who suggested that there may have been political influence exerted, and that required more investigation and more consideration before a definitive conclusion could be reached. This, of course, was one of the reasons we felt that it would be necessary to pursue this matter futher.

During the election campaign, this turned out to be much more of an issue than, I am sure, the government side had predicted it would be; and the people who were protesting were pretty genuine people.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Too bad the politicians were not genuine on this issue.

Mr. Bradley: The member for Carleton-Grenville, who is a Minister without Portfolio, should listen carefully to this. These people were pretty genuine people. He should ask the member for Burlington South if he does not believe that. They were not average investors. They were not people who were heavily involved in investment as an occupation. Many of them were the classic widows, senior citizens and others who were pretty hard done by when they lost what were essentially their life savings.

These people were looking for some kind of compensation if incompetence or other wrongdoing could be proven. They received a commitment from the Premier during the campaign that this matter would be dealt with in the courts, that the cases would be expedited. We find after the election, however, that the government will fight the cases as hard as possible. The excuse is the federal government. The government in this province is first in line when there is credit to be taken and last in line when there is responsibility to be taken, when things go wrong in this province.

We feel that this matter should be investigated further. We were hopeful last Thursday when we had some bright new faces sitting around the table in the justice committee that

this would be the case, that indeed we would have a continuation of the investigation and recommendations would be forthcoming. Unfortunately, with the government whip standing in the background, smiling from ear to ear, the members did their duty and all voted against continuing the investigation immediately, and voted in favour of a resolution that would postpone any consideration. Ultimately we are probably going to see no further investigation. At that time, I suggested the broom that was to sweep it under the rug had 70 bristles who had been elected.

I could go on to speak at some length about the patronage system that exists in Ontario. We have gone through how the government got elected, but how it keeps itself in office is a matter of record. We had a lengthy speech by the then member for High Park-Swansea, Mr. Ziemba, on this. While some of us in this Legislature might not have agreed with the tone of that speech or with certain of the items included in that speech, nevertheless it catalogued a record of patronage that is second to none in this country, and that is how this government is able to stay in power.

If we want to find evidence of arrogance on that side, we need only look to the main environmental issues that have been before us, at least in the dying days of the last Legislature. I refer, of course, to the South Cayuga situation, where the government was embarrassed by a particular piece of property that had been purchased for other purposes and decided to defy its own legislation and place in that particular area a facility that certainly required a full environmental hearing before it could be placed in that specific location. Yet the government decided to circumvent its own legislation and to place that facility there. With a majority now, they can confirm that decision.

The government also decided to avoid a direct interventionist role in the SCA Chemical Waste Service situation where millions of gallons of treated industrial waste are going into the Niagara River. While there were certain protestations on the part of the then Minister of the Environment, Mr. Parrott, he did not appear at the hearings, as we have said on this side, because if placed on the stand at those hearings, he would have to concede that the role of the Ministry of the Environment of Ontario was certainly nothing to write home about.

In Ontario we have been saddled with, and obviously have no chance of removing now, regional government in many of the municipalities; and we will have mergers that will be given other names, but ultimately they will be regional government as well. What has the reaction been of those who have regional government in their area now? They are all interested in constructing new palaces across the province to solidify regional government at a time when the mill rates are increasing.

9.20 p.m.

We recall that during the election campaign the Premier, and certainly the Progressive Conservative candidates, indicated to the people of Ontario that there would be no change in the rent control legislation. Now we are getting hints from the government side that there might well be changes in the rent control legislation in Ontario. Of course, being in power and having a majority, they have the opportunity to do that if necessary.

We have in Ontario at the present time a government whose reason for existence, whose goal, whose purpose, whose passion revolves around gaining and holding power. In this, I must concede, they have been very successful. They are plagued with the disease that many other governments have had, the arrogance of power. They have lost their sensitivity to the real needs of the people of this province. They rule this province with 70 members and 44 per cent of those who chose to go to the polls voting for them.

This government is a party whose energies are used to perpetuate itself in power, to perpetuate the privileges enjoyed by the rich and the secure in this province. But I cannot believe that the government benches are populated entirely by those who are without compassion. We on this side of the House do not have a monopoly on compassion, and I think that is a political reality.

With this in mind I would like to say we are attracted by some of the points that are included in the no-confidence motion of members of the New Democratic Party. But we find that in every motion put forward by the members of the third party there appears to be a hook, and the hook in this one that would lead us not to support it involves the nationalization of certain industries. For that reason, we will not be supporting the motion of the New Democratic Party.

We will be proposing a motion of our own, because we in the Liberal Party speak for the little people in this province, for the individuals, for the disadvantaged and for the disabled. We

in the official opposition speak for those who cannot speak for themselves, and we will continue to do that.

Because there is, as I am told by some of my friends in the Conservative Party, a perceptible shift to the right, despite what has happened in France, I implore the members opposite, many of whom are talking about deregulation, many of whom are talking about a less interventionist policy on the part of the government of Ontario, at least to remember those in this province who require the assistance, the intervention and the backing of those of us who sit in this Legislature to have some kind of equal opportunity in this province, which characterizes itself as the province of opportunity.

In the hope that members opposite will listen to this and search their own consciences to be sure these people are not cast aside, I want to speak to the members of the Legislature about a challenge that was issued by a former Governor General of Canada. I noticed it on the back of a church calendar on Sunday afternoon. It is a challenge to all of us, regardless of what our political affiliation might be, by Georges P. Vanier, former Governor General of Canada. That is why I indicated in the preamble to this that I do not think any one party in this House has a monopoly on compassion. They are words that I think we should take into consideration these days when many are worshipping the Reagan policies and the kind of economic policies that are having a detrimental effect on the middle- and lower-income people in this province and in this country.

To conclude my speech, I quote from Georges Vanier: "I throw out this challenge to all of those who believe in the value of the human being: There are hundreds of thousands of inadequately cared for persons who have need of your heart, your affection and your love; they have already been waiting too long."

Mr. Speaker: The Premier.

[Applause.]

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I express regret over the behaviour of some of the visitors in the gallery. I will speak to them at home this evening.

It is my delightful while somewhat onerous task, in winding up this traditional debate, to exercise the logic and judgement that prevails on this side of the House to persuade the members opposite to change their points of view.

I regret that the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy) is leaving, because I am rather anxious to refer to what I think was a questionable observation made about one of the candidates and his wife and secretary. It is very easy in this House to hand it out, but it is not so easy to take it.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Probably the editorial in the Ottawa Citizen got to the member for Ottawa East for his grossly unfair attack, not on our party's candidate in Ottawa East but on his wife and his secretary. There have been observations made here about sexist remarks. The member for Ottawa East indicated that Omer Deslauriers' wife obtained employment because he was a candidate. I ask the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Smith), who always takes much umbrage at these remarks, to assess that sort of approach.

I really did not intend to open my remarks by being provocative this evening. I listened to the temperate remarks from the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel), apart from those at the beginning, and was lulled into believing he was endeavouring to make a positive contribution. I will come to those early remarks a little later on.

Then I listened to the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley). Quite obviously there was some thought at the beginning of his speech that he might be joining the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) on the list for the leadership of the Liberal Party of Ontario. I understand the member of Niagara Falls has announced his candidacy already. I extend my congratulations to him. We wish him well.

But, after listening to the member for St. Catharines, it is quite obvious he has no such ambition, because it was so obvious in his remarks tonight that he could never attain it. They will have to go back to the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), the only viable alternative.

9:30 p.m.

I listened to the member for St. Catharines, and what he said was so indicative of why they lost the election. There was not a constructive suggestion in the whole speech, nothing to do with what should be happening in this province.

I have some excellent notes prepared here, but I may digress a little. I spent 44 days travelling this province, and I said to the people I was visiting, "Maybe tomorrow the Liberal leader of this province will come out with something affirmative, something constructive, something of interest to the voters of Ontario."

I said it on day 43 and on day 42. One day

before the election I was saying, in amazement, to the people with whom I consulted on occasion that not once during the campaign was there a comprehensive, constructive policy enunciated by the Liberal Party of Ontario. That is one reason they are over there and we are over here.

Talk about patronage. He can be a little cheap on these things. I rather like the member for St. Catharines, but it is a bit of a cheap shot. His leader made a great fuss over the new chairman of Ontario Hydro, over what a terrible appointment it was and how it was patronage at its worst. I will bring and show him a letter, one of the nice letters his leader wrote to raise money and obviously personally signed. Who was it addressed to? It was addressed to Hugh Macaulay, chairman of Ontario Hydro, seeking his financial support. He has to be ashamed of himself.

Mr. Nixon: Did he send a cheque?

Hon. Mr. Davis: No. I have a feeling he did not make a contribution and I think for very just reasons.

Mr. Speaker, I have neglected the traditions. I want to compliment and congratulate you on your election to this most important office in this assembly. It is a clear indication of the confidence that all members of the House, with the exception of the member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy), have in your abilities, your integrity and the way we know you will conduct the affairs of this House.

I say to the member for Ottawa Centre, that was not one of his great moments. This is my night to tell him what I think. I have listened to him for a lot of years, and I tell him that on the opening day of the House he did himself no credit. The only person who redeemed his party was the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), the former Speaker of the House, and I tell him that he has earned and has our respect.

I want to congratulate all new members of the House and all those who participated in the throne speech debate. I want to express my best wishes to the young but very distinguished member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies). I think his contribution, pointing out what he wants to see happen in his constituency, his commitment to growth, his support of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program, clearly identifies him as a man who has a sensitivity and understanding of the issues not only in Brantford but also right across this province. That is one of the reasons we are over here and they are over there. It is because of men like the member for Brantford.

I have to be very careful not to get into any facetious observations about the member for St. George (Ms. Fish)—the present member. She is a great addition to this House for a variety of reasons. I will not say any more than that. That takes nothing away from the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps). The member for St. George is a great addition, and her contribution demonstrated the sensitivity of this party, its understanding and its awareness of the social issues, something the people in the Liberal Party talk about but have never really understood.

I wish to say something to the member for St. Catharines. I nearly had tears in my eyes when he talked about the little people. Does he know what his leader was saying during the campaign? He said that only he now had connections with Bay Street. I never thought I would hear a Liberal leader say, "You know, the Tories don't have any relationship with Bay Street any more." I have news for him: We never did. But here was the Liberal leader trying to identify himself with Bay Street. I thought it was tremendous, delightful and I am sure it cost him 100 votes in his own riding, but that is what he was saying.

I heard so many people who were here and listened to the new members make their contribution say just how impressed they were. I have not had time to read all their remarks, but I have read many of them. I have read the remarks from the member for Ottawa East and the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell). I do not know that I would include them as being the most constructive in this debate, and I will get around to them in just a few moments, but I will touch on the matter raised by the member for Ottawa East and indirectly by the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel).

We are dealing in this country with some difficult and sensitive issues; no one minimizes them. One can disagree with the position that this government and this Premier has taken on some issues related to the constitution, but I say to the member for Sudbury East that we have been consistent. In fairness, so has his party. I am not quarrelling with it. I want to say—read that pamphlet, that is fine, he can go ahead and read all he wants—I can recall his leader saying that it was he who prevailed on the Prime Minister in a phone call not to impose section 133 on the province. I do not know whether he ever made that phone call, but they cannot have it both ways.

I know how they campaigned across this province. I know what was being said in Essex

county, not only in this election but also in 1977. The member should not talk to us about who takes the high road. We have been consistent, we have been honest about it and we have not been saying one thing in one part of the province and something somewhere else, which his leader has done day after day after day.

The member for St. Catharines knows it is true. The member for Quinte (Mr. O'Neil) knows it is true. He is a very decent soul; I hate to say it, but he is. He knows that is what was happening. That is why he ran as an independent. That is why, when I made my significant visit to that riding which had such an impact on the results, I tried to find the word "Liberal"—

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I think the Premier needs a rest anyway, but I have to remind him that when he does come to my riding, he does remember my name, and he does remember the riding. I must say that when he was there he drew a group of about 70, and our leader drew about 400.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I will never quarrel with the large crowd that the member's leader drew; it was because the member happened to be the candidate. I have to tell him, if he had not been the candidate, probably there would have been zip there. He knows that, and I know that.

I do not travel into many areas of the province where the local member makes me any more welcome than the member for Quinte. In fact, I come in to his riding, I go to the odd event with him, and you would think he was a member of our party. I feel very comfortable with that.

Mr. O'Neil: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: As I think I have mentioned to the Premier, I would like him to do two things when he comes to my riding: first, bring money when he comes and, second, let me know when he is coming so I can keep an eye on him.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I will meet both of those qualifications, except it will be a credit card.

I was in Brantford during the campaign, and actually campaigns are kind of fun—

Mr. Kerrio: We welcomed you at Niagara.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Certainly we were in Niagara, but I was in Brantford and I met the candidate for the Liberal Party in the neighbouring riding. I have to tell members, he was working in the hall in Brantford. It did not do the Liberal Brantford candidate any good, but he kissed my wife. I mean, I saw him, right in the midst of the campaign. I was about ready to complain to the chief electoral officer or something of that nature. Who was he trying to impress? He impressed Kathleen, but he did not get any votes for the candidate in Brantford. He did not get her vote either.

Mr. Nixon: The question is, did you get her vote?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have to tell the member, I think some days I have to ask that question myself.

9:40 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, we could spend the next four years in this House reliving March 19.

Mr. Cassidy: And probably will.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am ready to do it. The member for Ottawa Centre will not relive it; he is dead in a political sense, or retired—at least he says he is going to retire.

The members opposite have been talking about our promises. We made no promises during the campaign; we only made commitments. The members opposite made the promises.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Listen, the leader of the Liberal Party promised that, if he lost, he would quit. Is he going to keep that promise? On this side of the House we have very mixed views on whether he should, very mixed views.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I suggest with respect, Mr. Speaker, that we can have fun and we can debate March 19 day after day as we have done in question period. That is part of politics, and this is a political forum. No one should ever minimize it; no one should understate it. But at the same time, and I say this with respect to the member for St. Catharines, there are other issues than trying to tell the people of this province why he thinks we won the election.

I have to say, I have had my shares of wins and losses in many respects. I listened to the honourable member's speech tonight, and I think it can be characterized quite simply by saying—and I say this kindly—it sounded to me like sour grapes, it really did.

I will tell him why his party lost. I will try to be helpful to the honourable member's leader. I will make a small wager with the member that neither of us will ever be able to prove that the attitude of the people on the day the writ was issued changed very much in the 44 days of the campaign. I will tell you why, Mr. Speaker. It was because this party and this government

presented a positive attitude, a constructive sort of approach. The people of Ontario do not want to be told for 44 days that we are going down the tube, that we are number 10, that nothing the government does is right. They did not believe it then, and they do not believe it today.

If the member had any wisdom whatsoever, he would understand that one has to be more positive; one has to have something specific to present.

Mr. Speaker, we face major issues in this country. I am not going to discuss the constitution tonight, because it is before the courts, except to make one observation—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Hon. Mr. Davis: Well, it is before the courts.

Mr. Foulds: It is sub judice, is it?

Hon. Mr. Davis: It is, in my view.

Mr. Nixon: You would think it was a rape case.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Where, over there?

Mr. Nixon: A lot of your friends think it is.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk is suddenly suggesting that a lot of my friends are in total agreement with the position I have taken on the constitution. Some of my friends are not; I freely confess it. But I have to say, they voted for us on March 19, along with a lot of disenchanted Liberals as well. They also voted for us.

Do the Liberals know where they made another mistake during the campaign? If they recall the way their party has sort of gone up and down the roller coaster with respect to the popularity of the present Prime Minister of Canada, they will remember their leader quietly going up into the press gallery a couple of years ago and saying: "I have to dissociate myself from the federal Liberals. You know Pierre Elliott Trudeau is dead; it is never going to work; I have to get away from him." Then Pierre Elliott Trudeau came back. He won a year ago February. One day later, the leader of the Liberal Party of Ontario said: "My gosh, we have to have a provincial election. I want to get on his coattails." The members must remember him going around Ontario doing that.

I remember one of the Leader of the Opposition's great lines. He was referring to the wimp and the blimp. Do members remember the great respect he showed for Mr. Clark? I do not mind what he calls me, except I will match my blimpishness with the member for Niagara Falls these days any day of the week. That is being unkind, but I have been working on it and the members opposite should try it.

Mr. Nixon: The Premier goes through cycles himself.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I did, certainly; we all go through cycles. The member goes in circles; I go in cycles. The member for St. Catharines has not been here long enough to know the circles the party goes in.

The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk was a great leader, I have great respect for him, but he was leader of a Liberal Party that was Liberal. It believed in certain reforms. It tried to make a little progress. He had the nerve to put his picture on a pamphlet calling for regional government in county school boards. That is when the Liberal Party, I say to the member for St. Catharines, stood for something and was not trying to be all things to all people in all parts. That is where they made their mistake.

Let us try to forget about March 19. I have difficulty, because I enjoyed it. I would be less than honest if I said I did not. But that March 19 election, I think, said something else. It said something about the people of this province, because the Leader of the Opposition was being pretty negative. Remember what he said about the manufacturing sector—

Mr. Bradley: Forty-four per cent of them voted for your party.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh, sure. I know the percentages, and we can play the percentage game all night. But what the people of this province were really saying was that they were not going to buy that negative bill of goods. The people of Ontario have confidence in their abilities. They know we face difficult times. No one is minimizing that. No one is minimizing the problems in the farm community, the small business community, and for everybody.

With respect to some of the economics in this country—I am not going to pass the buck tonight, but I am going to make a factual observation—one of the main reasons we are in difficulty in Canada is the consistently ill-advised monetary policy of the government of Canada. I make no apologies for saying that, because it happens to be true.

Mr. Cassidy: That was Joe Clark's policy.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No. With great respect, Mr. Clark did not have ample opportunity to develop his policy fully. I have been far more supportive of my national leader than some provincial NDP premiers have been of their national leader.

Mr. Martel: No, no.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I understand that some NDP members were making Allan Blakeney's life difficult out west a few days ago. Is that true? I get reports.

Mr. Breaugh: The KGB is wrong again.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would say to the member for Oshawa that we probably have more friends in the labour movement now than his party has, because the NDP has been a disaster to them. We probably have more friends.

Mr. Breaugh: Name some.

Hon. Mr. Davis: In fact, in my riding most of them voted for me instead of the NDP candidate. I could not get those figures in Brampton without that union support.

Mr. Breaugh: Not in my riding, and the Premier was there.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I was in the member's riding, and that is when he tried to cosy up to me to get his picture taken.

Mr. Breaugh: I thought the Premier was getting his picture taken with me.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Of course, that was right. I wanted my picture with the member back in Brampton. It would have got a lot of votes. I cannot think of anyone—

Mr. Sargent: The Premier has 10 minutes.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I say to the member for Grey-Bruce, I have not started on him yet and, what is more, I will not.

Mr. Gillies: It is not worth it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I do not quite agree with that. I think that is a modest exaggeration.

Mr. Cooke: Let us hear something positive.

Mr. Wildman: When does the constructive part start?

Mr. Breaugh: Back to the notes.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have not got to the notes yet.

Mr. Nixon: What do you pay this guy for?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I do not know. What do the Liberals pay Brother Deeks for? I have to repeat his line. He said, "Joining the Liberal Party of Ontario is like becoming general manager of the Toronto Argonauts."

Mr. Martel: The Premier should know about that. He has been going to them for 20 years.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes. But I can draw the distinction between my affection for the Toronto Argonauts and leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party.

Mr. Martel: He bets his money on them all the time.

Hon. Mr. Davis: One has been successful, the other not quite so much.

Mr. Speaker, I think we should understand something else as we are debating these issues over the next four years. We are really talking not just in terms of the partisan nature of this House or the politics of this House—

Mr. Boudria: We are getting into partisanship now.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, it is partisan. I say to the new member, he has a little bit to learn too. I am trying to give a little instruction tonight to his colleague on his left. He is in the process of learning that one can be partisan part of the time, but it is helpful to be constructive part of the time. It also has a greater impact.

9:50 p.m.

One of the great members who left this House, and I saw him last night at the dinner for Dr. Parrott, was Murray Gaunt—I can now call him by name. I think he was one of the great members of this Legislature.

Do the members opposite know why he was great? Some of them could learn something from him. It is too bad they were not here to see how he operated. It is too bad they did not read his news columns; they were very clever, very subtle, but very honest. He was always prepared to give government credit, always prepared to stand on the other side of government when he did not agree. But he took a constructive approach to the process here in this House. He did not come out with the kind of negative, cynical speech that the member for St. Catharines delivered. He would not do that sort of thing. He took a positive sort of approach; he was constructive in what he wanted to say. That, to me, is part of our responsibility.

I am not saying to the member for St. Catharines that he should not be critical; heaven knows, that is part of the process. But when he starts talking about how election campaigns are won, when he starts saying how some of his party's members felt that things were done because of media campaigns and all the rest of it, I have to say to the member for St. Catharines that is just total, utter hogwash.

This party won the election for one very simple reason: the capacity of our candidates, our record in office, the positive nature of our

campaign and the confidence we had in the people of this province. They returned us to office because of the impression we created and the member's party did not. It was as simple and as fundamental as that.

We should be debating some of the other issues, such as the question of inflation. We have debated this at no great length in this House. We have had questions. But why did the member opposite not point out in his remarks that inflation, without question, is one of the basic economic issues facing not only this province but also this country and probably this continent?

Why do we not discuss the matter of energy? Why do we not have a discussion as it relates to the divorcing of the energy debate from the constitutional issues? To me it is patently clear that the energy issue has to be separated from the constitutional discussion. We have to find some way and means to bring two of the governments of this country, Alberta and Ottawa, to a realization that some form of agreement is fundamental to the stability and the economic wellbeing not only of the producing provinces but also of this province and the total country. That is not an easy task, but it is one that is fundamental and one that was not touched upon even by the member from Sudbury East.

In terms of the throne speech, the Leader of the Opposition plays games; he goes through the ritual. The throne speech sets out a practical, pragmatic, attainable objective in terms of economic growth.

Mr. Martel: But it does not deal with the issues.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I remind those people in the New Demcratic Party that they cannot have that kind of support, that kind of quality of our health system and educational system, unless they are prepared to have the economic growth and development that go along with it, and it can never happen under the kind of philosophy that those people represent.

What all the members of this House must do in the next several months and several years is devote their energies in a constructive way, not in terms of comparing Ontario's record with that of Prince Edward Island.

I say to the members of the Liberal Party, tell your leader from me that if you have one significant industrial development in Prince Edward Island, it is true that you are going to have figures that reflect a somewhat larger percentage of growth than in Ontario. I accept that. But just remember something: The population of Prince Edward Island is roughly the same as that of the great constituency of the city of Brampton, which I happen to represent in this Legislature.

I think we should get away from these internal comparisons. It is valid to compare the economic performance of this province with that of the northern states of the United States. That has greater validity. I will match our record of achievement under the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller), the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Grossman), all of my cabinet colleagues, with that of any comparable jurisdiction in North America. The record speaks for itself.

Look at the job-creation record. Show me what they have done in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, you name it. A hundred thousand new jobs in this province this year. Let the member from St. Catharines show me any other jurisdiction that has a record of achievement of a comparable nature. He cannot.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: One hundred and twenty-four thousand.

Hon. Mr. Davis: One hundred and twenty-four thousand. I am sorry; I am far too conservative in my estimates.

Take a look at what we have done with respect not only to new job creation but also to some of the innovative programs of government. You know, I had the greatest fun in the campaign—I hate going back to it—with the Urban Transportation Development Corporation. I regret that the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Smith) is not here, because I had some fun about it with the member from whatever-his-riding -is, who was our great critic and never supported it. He was totally opposed to it.

It was great fun to go into riding after riding and find Ontarians who were proud of the fact that through this modest government initiative we have been able to beat off the challenges from Japan, West Germany, France and the United States.

Mr. Sweeney: I thought we weren't supposed to be compared with them; that we are only supposed to be looking at the northern states.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Of course we can be. I say to the member for Kitchener-Wilmot—

Mr. Sweeney: The Premier is talking out of both sides of his mouth at the same time.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Ms. Copps: I will give the Premier in Brampton the UTDC out of my riding. He can have it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Can I call the member Ms. Copps? Is that the new tradition? I will only say to her, if she wishes to give up the development of UTDC in Hamilton and transfer it to Brampton, while I cannot presume to speak for the mayor of Brampton, I think we will be delighted to have it.

Ms. Copps: The mayor of Hamilton does not want it. Doesn't the Premier read the Spectator?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I read the Spectator. He wants a stadium. I know what he wants and what he does not want, and I know what this government is prepared to do to help him in spite of the opposition we get from some Hamilton members. Is the member in favour of support for the arena? Does she want support for the arena?

Ms. Copps: Hamilton is the guinea pig for this government.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to be interrupted by the new member for Hamilton Centre. I have a feeling we will hear a great deal from her during the next year or two. I am not going to talk about the quality of what we hear but there is no question we will hear it.

Ms. Copps: I will be speaking for Hamilton, you can bet on that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I can only say to the member for Hamilton Centre, she can speak from Hamilton and I will hear her. I say this very kindly to her: Quite obviously her very aggressive desire to speak for Hamilton is a clear indication that she thinks the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Smith) has not been doing so.

Ms. Copps: We all speak for Hamilton. If the government has done so well for Hamilton, why is it that all we have now is Liberals and New Democrats? There are no Tories in Hamilton.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Premier will continue.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I must confess to you I have not enjoyed interruptions of this nature for a long time. I think it is tremendous.

Ms. Copps: Why didn't you come to my riding during the election?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Has the member invited me to her riding?

Ms. Copps: No, and I do not think I will.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I thought she had. I would be delighted to go.

I hope in the very few moments left before the bells ring that the members opposite, particularly those in the Liberal Party who really think of these things carefully and understand what it is we are attempting as a government—those people over there never will—will reassess their position, will vote in support of this enlightened throne speech and will join with us in keeping the promise.

I do not mean the promise of the politicians. I do not mean the promise of election campaigns. I urge the members opposite to join with us in keeping the promise, not of politicians or of campaigns, but of this province and its people, the unparalleled opportunity we have together to move this province ahead, to achieve, in terms of economic growth, social programs, that to which members of this House were committed. I urge them to seize the opportunity and to show the leadership they are all so eager to obtain for themselves by joining the government in the support of this great document.

10:25 p.m.

The House divided on the amendment to the amendment by Mr. Cassidy, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes

Breaugh, Bryden, Cassidy, Charlton, Cooke, Di Santo, Foulds, Grande, Johnston, R. F., Laughren, MacDonald, Mackenzie, Martel, McClellan, Philip, Samis, Stokes, Swart, Wildman.

Nays

Andrewes, Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Bennett, Bernier, Birch, Boudria, Bradley, Brandt, Conway, Copps, Cousens, Cunningham, Cureatz, Davis, Dean, Drea, Eakins, Eaton, Edighoffer, Elgie, Elston, Epp;

Eves, Fish, Gillies, Gordon, Gregory, Grossman, Haggerty, Harris, Henderson, Hodgson, Johnson, J. M., Jones, Kells, Kennedy, Kerr, Kerrio, Kolyn, Lane, Leluk, MacQuarrie, Mancini, McCaffrey, McCague, McEwen;

McGuigan, McLean, McMurtry, McNeil, Miller, F. S., Miller, G. I., Mitchell, Newman, Nixon, Norton, O'Neil, Peterson, Piché, Pollock, Pope, Ramsay, Reed, J. A., Reid, T. P., Riddell, Robinson, Rotenberg, Roy, Runciman, Ruprecht, Ruston;

Sargent, Scrivener, Sheppard, Shymko, Smith, Snow, Stephenson, B. M., Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Sweeney, Taylor, G. W., Taylor, J. A., Timbrell, Treleaven, Van Horne, Villeneuve, Walker, Watson, Welch, Wells, Williams, Wiseman, Worton, Wrye, Yakabuski.

Ayes 19; nays 98.

10:30 p.m.

The House divided on the amendment by Mr. Smith, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes

Boudria, Bradley, Breaugh, Bryden, Cassidy, Charlton, Conway, Cooke, Copps, Cunningham, Di Santo, Eakins, Edighoffer, Elston, Epp, Foulds, Grande, Haggerty, Johnston, R. F., Kerrio, Laughren, MacDonald, Mackenzie, Mancini;

Martel, McClellan, McEwen, McGuigan, Miller, G. I., Newman, Nixon, O'Neil, Peterson, Philip, Reed, J. A., Reid, T. P., Riddell, Roy, Ruprecht, Ruston, Samis, Sargent, Smith, Stokes, Swart, Sweeney, Van Horne, Wildman, Worton, Wrye.

Nays

Andrewes, Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Bennett, Bernier, Birch, Brandt, Cousens, Cureatz, Davis, Dean, Drea, Eaton, Elgie, Eves, Fish, Gillies, Gordon, Gregory, Grossman, Harris, Henderson;

Hodgson, Johnson, J. M., Jones, Kells, Kennedy, Kerr, Kolyn, Lane, Leluk, MacQuarrie, McCaffrey, McCague, McLean, McMurtry, McNeil, Miller, F. S., Mitchell, Norton, Piché, Pollock, Pope, Ramsay, Robinson, Rotenberg, Runciman;

Scrivener, Sheppard, Shymko, Snow, Stephenson, B. M., Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Taylor, G. W., Taylor, J. A., Timbrell, Treleaven, Villeneuve, Walker, Watson, Welch, Wells, Williams, Wiseman, Yakabuski.

Ayes 50; nays 67.

The House divided on the main motion by Mr. Gillies, which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

Resolved: That a humble address be presented to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor of the province of Ontario as follows:

To the Honourable John Black Aird, an Officer of the Order of Canada, one of Her Majesty's Counsel Learned in the Law, Bachelor of Arts, Doctor of Laws, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has addressed to us.

The House adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

CONTENTS

Tuesday May 12, 1981

Throne speech debate

Mr. Martel. 627
Mr. Bradley. 634
Mr. Davis. 640
Adjournment. 647

SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Bradley, J. J. (St. Catharines L)
Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
Copps, S. M. (Hamilton Centre L)
Davis, Hon. W. G.; Premier (Brampton PC)
Eaton, R. G. (Middlesex PC)
Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)
Grossman, Hon. L. S.; Minister of Industry and Tourism (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
Kerrio, V. G. (Niagara Falls L)
Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
O'Neil, H. P. (Quinte L)
Piché, R. L. (Cochrane North PC)
Pope, Hon. A. W.; Minister of Natural Resources (Cochrane South PC)
Reid, T. P. (Rainy River L-Lab.)
Roy, A. J. (Ottawa East L)
Runciman, R. W. (Leeds PC)
Sargent, E. C. (Grey-Bruce L)
Snow, Hon. J. W.; Minister of Transportation and Communications (Oakville PC)
Sterling, Hon. N. W.; Minister without Portfolio (Carleton-Grenville PC)
Sweeney, J. (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
Turner, Hon. J. M.; Speaker (Peterborough PC)
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)

BINDING SECT. SEP 3 1981